



October 15, 2013

## **PRESSE RELEASE**

**PRESS RELEASE   COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE   COMUNICATO STAMPA**

### **Economic crisis affects construction materials recycling in Europe**

#### **The EQAR autumn assembly in Modra (Slovakian Republic) shows deficits in construction materials recycling in most of the EU member states**

„The economic and financial crisis leaves its marks also in European construction materials recycling“ thus Manfred Wierichs, President of the European Quality Association for Recycling (EQAR), sums up the results of the EQAR assembly held this autumn.

EQAR met at the invitation of its member association Združenie na rozvoj recyklácie stavebných materiálov (ZRSRM) in Modra (Slovakian Republic). It was agreed that a stagnation or even a decline of construction materials recycling is to be detected in the EU member states. The reasons for that are the public investment in road construction declining owing to the financial and debt crisis and a lacking acceptance of recycled construction materials.

With approx. 1 billion tons mineral construction and demolition wastes represent the biggest waste stream in Europe. EQAR criticizes that there is no uniform statistics on the production and recycling of mineral wastes in Europe.

Ludvik Jančo, President of ZRSRM, expressed doubts about the Slovakian statistics according to which construction and demolition wastes have a share of approx. 3 million, i.e. approx. 27.5 %, in the annual total waste production of 10.8 million tons. „According to estimates of ZRSRM 6 million tons of mineral wastes should be assumed“, according to Jančo.

„It is about time to do more for promoting a European recycling!“ according to Wierichs. The first European Quality Assurance System for Recycled Construction Materials established by EQAR ensures the technical quality in conformity with the relevant European product standards as well as observing of environmental compatibility of recycled construction materials.

The new REACH Information of EQAR makes, in addition, clear that quality-assured recycled construction materials do not require a REACH registration as they are processed purely mechanically. „Before this background an unrestricted product recognition of quality-assured recycled construction materials is overdue“, Wierichs emphasizes.

Manfred Wierichs doubts that the EU target rate of 70 % of recycling and utilization of mineral wastes will be reached up to 2020 if it is not even possible to install a uniform statistical collection of waste production data in Europe. He requests the EU Commission to have talks as repeatedly offered by this branch and to create jointly a waste-end regulation for quality-assured recycled construction materials.