



## Trilogues on ESPR and CPR – ALCCC statement on ‘cement backstop clause’

European cements are among the most carbon intensive in the world, without clear signs of improvement. This is concerning, as cement – together with concrete – is and will remain the most consumed material in Europe. As the [Alliance for Low-Carbon Cement and Concrete](#) (ALCCC), we are committed to bring European cements within planetary boundaries, targeting a net zero value chain by 2040.

**Safe, scalable and cost-effective low carbon cements exist today, but must become the norm in if we are to meet Europe’s climate goals.** The ongoing revision of the CPR – and the parallel CPR acquis process on cement – is an important first step in that direction. Under the leadership of DG GROW, a process has been initiated to shift from today’s recipe-based to performance-based standards, finally creating a level-playing field for the CE marking of products. By mid-2024, a clear perspective will exist for all players on the market on how the future CE marking of cements will look like in Europe. **The crux of the matter, however, is not to simply enable market entrance of new cements, but to also introduce ecodesign requirements so that sustainable cements thrive and become the new norm.**

The parallel revision of the CPR and ESPR showed that different views exist on what legal framework is best placed to deliver upon ecodesign requirements for cement. **As ALCCC we are committed to a rapid implementation of ambitious ecodesign requirements on cement, regardless of the underlying policy framework.** At a time when many regions and countries are stepping up their game on cement, Europe must follow.

**Therefore, we call upon negotiators to explicitly recognise and support the ‘backstop clause on cement’ – as outlined in the official position of the European Parliament on the ESPR (art. 16) in both files.** This compromise offers the CPR framework sufficient time to develop ambitious ecodesign requirements on cement, putting forward 2027 as a final deadline. If this were to not happen – which the ALCCC would deeply regret – a backstop clause will be activated under which ESPR can introduce ecodesign requirements in the short term, ensuring that European cements – as all energy intensive products – successfully embark on a journey to sustainability well ahead of 2030.

Representing leading innovators in the European and global cement, concrete and construction value chain, we are confident that with your support we can help make Europe’s most consumed material greener.