

Registration Form - 6th Annual Meeting of the High Level Construction Forum, 30 April 2026

Fields marked with * are mandatory.



Registration Form - 6th Annual Meeting of the HLCF, 30 April 2026

Join us in Brussels to debate the strategic challenges facing construction and how we may address them in the future.

Together, we will discuss actions being implemented by the EU, Member States and industry members of the HLCF, in line with the recently published European Strategy for Housing Construction, as part of the Affordable Housing Plan, and linked to the Transition Pathway for Construction.

The full-day event is divided into three parts:

- **Part 1:** Productivity and competitiveness of the EU's construction ecosystem
- **Part 2:** European Strategy for Housing Construction – From strategy to implementation
- **Part 3:** Breakout sessions - Delivering the European Strategy for Housing Construction

The event will take place in person at the premises of DG GROW (the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs). Lunch and refreshments will be provided. A possibility for hybrid connections will be restricted to parts 1 and 2 only.

More details on the online/in-person attendance are available below, under Section 2. You will receive further information on how to join the event once your registration is confirmed.

Date/time

30 April 2026, 10:00 – 16:30 CEST

Registrations for online attendance will stay open until the day before the event.

Please note that in-person participation is subject to approval. You will receive a dedicated email within 5 working days to inform you about the status of your registration.

If you experience any issues, please contact us at: HLCF@ecorys.com

You can download the draft agenda at the link below.

Please note that some items and speakers may change. An updated agenda will be shared closer to the event.

[6th_HLCF_meeting_Agenda.pdf](#)

1. General Information

*** First name**

Alexis

*** Surname**

Kuhl

*** Job title**

Senior Climate & Environment Adviser

*** Full name of the organisation you represent**

European Panel Federation

*** Email**

alexis.kuhl@europanel.org

*** Type of organisation**

- Academic/research institution
- Business association
- Company
- Consultancy
- EU institution
- Financial institution
- International body
- Local public authority
- National ministry
- Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- Permanent representation
- Private agency
- Public agency
- Regional public authority
- Other public authority
- Other private body

*** In which country is your organisation based?**

I represent an EU level organisation

Due to venue capacity, in-person attendance is restricted. The approval process of in-person participants will be based on a selection procedure that will take into account such criteria as: stakeholder /organisation; Member State representation; interest in the topics of the break-out rooms.

*** How would you like to participate in the 6th Annual HLCF event?**

- Online (only Part 1 and Part 2)
- In person (all parts)

2. European Strategy for Housing Construction – From strategy to implementation

Building on [previous HLCF discussions](#), Part 3 of the event will include an in-person workshop, which will provide an opportunity for members of the HLCF to discuss the way forward in implementing the [European Strategy for Housing Construction](#). The objective is to gather targeted input to inform the Commission's follow-up work under the Strategy.

Participants are invited to share their perspectives on what is needed for the actions outlined in the strategy to work effectively, and what could risk slowing down or limiting their impact in delivering more affordable, sustainable and timely housing across Europe.

Please provide your (optional) input on priorities below, whether or not you plan to attend the workshop sessions.

What steps are needed at the EU, national and local levels to simplify permitting procedures in practice, and ensure these efforts effectively accelerate housing delivery across Europe?

Under **Action 1** of the Strategy, the European Commission will work with Member States to simplify and digitalise national, regional and local permitting processes, including through a comprehensive mapping exercise that may feed into a future housing simplification package (2027) and the Affordable Housing Act (Q4 2026). Some of the work is already on-going. The mapping exercise has started and an update will be provided on the status and any initial findings. On 10 December, the Commission proposal “Omnibus VIII on environmental legislation” was adopted, simplifying environmental assessments’ legislation. The discussion will therefore focus on how emerging EU and local initiatives are working, how they can be scaled up across the Single Market, and what further steps are needed to streamline planning, zoning and permitting processes in support of faster and more predictable housing delivery, while respecting subsidiarity and safeguarding public interest objectives.

Accelerating housing delivery requires simpler permitting procedures, digitalisation and greater predictability, while maintaining environmental and safety standards.

At EU level, improving the coherence of regulatory frameworks affecting construction projects and aligning methodologies for environmental assessments and lifecycle carbon calculations would reduce administrative complexity. The EU can also support Member States through guidance, best practice exchange and digital tools.

At national and regional levels, simplifying planning procedures, introducing clear timelines for permit decisions, and establishing one-stop-shop permitting systems would help reduce delays. Digital platforms allowing developers to track applications can also improve efficiency.

Finally, wider deployment of industrialised and modular construction systems, including those based on wood-based panels and other bio-based materials, can help accelerate housing delivery if permitting frameworks recognise standardised building systems across Member States.

What steps need to be taken to improve access to and circulation of secondary construction materials and products, and what would be needed in practice for these actions to support housing affordability and supply?

Action 5 of the Strategy includes several EU initiatives to facilitate the free movement of secondary construction materials within the Single Market and to strengthen transparency and information on material availability. Specific actions include the harmonisation of end-of-waste criteria through the Circular Economy Act (expected by Q4 2026), digitalised pre-demolition audits, and the development of a Digital European Construction Resource Assessment (DECRA) platform connecting national systems. The discussion will focus on how these EU actions can be implemented in a way that combines the lowest burden for market actors with the highest benefits in terms of availability of secondary construction materials. The discussions

will look into what is needed for secondary materials to become a practical and reliable option for construction and renovation, including how they can support predictable supply and lower prices for materials in general. We will discuss compliance with building requirements and cost-effective use in housing projects, and which targeted flanking actions are needed to accelerate uptake in housing.

To improve access to and circulation of secondary construction materials, the top priority and essential first step is to maximise waste collection to expand the volume available for material recycling across all streams. The second step has to do with upgrading the quality of the collected streams (by encouraging separation at the earliest stages to reduce material mixing).

Together, these enabling conditions should be made through flexible approaches that reflect the different market structures of Member States, with the aim to set ambitious yet realistic recycling targets. All of this with the aim towards an EU-wide harmonisation of collection systems, to improve the interoperability of national systems, provided there are stronger incentives for selective demolition, dismantling and source separation, backed by investment in collection, sorting and logistics infrastructure.

Digital tools such as pre-demolition audits and DECRA should provide usable, standardised information on material type, quantity and quality. For these tools to work for market actors, they should not become additional reporting layers, but rather help identify tradable material streams early and connect supply with demand in a practical way.

To support housing affordability and supply, secondary materials must also be able to compete under fair and predictable market conditions. That means reducing avoidable cost burdens, avoiding policy distortions that favour bioenergy and burning over material use, and creating enough certainty for recyclers, manufacturers and housing developers to invest. The objective should not be circularity at any cost, but circularity that expands the available resource base, stabilises supply and lowers exposure to volatile virgin material markets, through operational binding enforcement of the cascading principle as enshrined in the RED III.

Finally, implementation should be based on value-network (as opposed to value-chain) cooperation rather than one-size-fits-all rules. This can only happen through a sustained multi-stakeholder dialogue (demolition companies, waste operators, recyclers, manufacturers, developers, local authorities and regulators).

What further steps are needed to support the [implementation of the revised Construction Products Regulation \(CPR\) and related standardisation work](#) – including for offsite and modular construction – so that they effectively foster innovation, reduce costs and accelerate housing delivery across Europe?

*In line with **Action 3** of the Strategy, the European Commission is accelerating the development of harmonised standards under the new CPR, with the first wave of product standards covering cement, structural metallic products, glass, doors and windows, supported by a dedicated [Working Plan for 2026–2029](#) setting priorities and indicative timelines.*

In parallel, as a priority under the CPR Acquis process, the Commission is launching standardisation work for offsite construction products and modular systems, starting in early 2026 with the aim of adopting the first standardisation request in 2027. The discussion will focus on how CPR implementation and related standardisation processes can work in practice to support innovation uptake and industrialised construction, and on the complementary actions needed to reduce costs, address remaining barriers and accelerate

housing delivery across the Single Market through the development of standards.

Several other Commission programmes and initiatives also aim to support innovation in construction, such as the work within the New European Bauhaus and the EIB lending envelope for Housing Tech. Ongoing activities and priorities will be discussed.

To ensure that the revised Construction Products Regulation (CPR) delivers in practice, implementation should focus on speed, legal certainty and usability for market actors, especially SMEs. The framework can support housing affordability if it reduces fragmentation and creates a predictable route to market for innovative and industrialised construction solutions.

Standardisation work should therefore progress quickly and prioritise product families with the greatest impact on housing delivery, including offsite and modular systems, wood-based panels, structural timber products, doors and windows, and insulation products. For modular construction, standards should also address assemblies and system-level performance, enabling building elements to circulate more easily across the Single Market.

The CPR should also ensure fair comparison between conventional and bio-based materials, with harmonised methods covering safety, performance and environmental aspects. At the same time, digital product information should remain simple, interoperable and proportionate.

Which other cross-cutting topics do you consider as future priorities for the implementation of the European Construction Strategy?

Examples of cross cutting topics might include research & innovation, and financing.

Industrialised construction should be a key priority, as offsite and modular approaches can accelerate housing delivery, improve productivity and help contain costs. This is particularly relevant for wood-based and bio-based construction systems, which are well suited to prefabrication and can support both affordability and faster deployment. At the same time, these systems offer a major opportunity to help decarbonise the built environment, not only by reducing emissions from construction processes, but also by acting as carbon-storing solutions.

Circularity and resource efficiency should also be high on the agenda. Stronger recovery, sorting, recycling and circulation of construction materials can improve supply security and reduce pressure on virgin resources. In the case of bio-based materials, this also means supporting cascading use, high-value recycling and the continued use of carbon-storing materials in construction for as long as possible.

Skills, innovation and access to finance (through EU programmes and financing instruments such as EIB initiatives) will be indeed essential to scale this transition.

In particular, skills and workforce development are particularly important, as labour shortages continue to constrain construction activity. Training initiatives should support competences related to industrialised construction, digital tools and innovative materials.

3. Privacy policy

GDPR Consent

Before you proceed further, please make sure to carefully read our privacy statement available at the link below.

[GROW Corporate Privacy statement - HLCF annual meeting.pdf](#)

I agree and hereby give my consent to the processing of my personal data to the extent necessary for the management of this event.

Photo and video footage consent

Please note: We plan to take video recordings and photos during the event. If you do not wish to be captured in the photos or video recording please reach out to the HLCF Technical Secretariat at HLCF@ecorys.com.

Contact

[Contact Form](#)