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DE CIUDADES  
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LA GESTIÓN  
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## Press Release

To be released immediately

11 March 2021

### **ACR+ joins a coalition calling the European Commission to deliver an ambitious EU Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment**

**31 signatories, representing a diverse range of stakeholders, call for delivery of EU Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment in a letter [1] addressed to European Commission's executive vice president Frans Timmermans, and commissioners Thierry Breton and Virginijus Sinkevičius.**

*Brussels, Belgium* - One year after the launch of the Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP), there is no clear timeline for a EU Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment. At the moment, the European Commission is even openly questioning its intentions to go ahead with this strategy. **This has triggered 31 organisations to call for an ambitious EU Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment (SSBE) to be published by the end of 2021**, in line with commitments set in the CEAP.

Such strategy is essential to tackle the substantial impacts of EU buildings and the construction industry, which account for an estimated 50% of energy consumption, 36% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, 50% of raw materials, and 33% of waste and water use [2].

Signatories include environmental NGOs, industry stakeholders, and representatives from cities and regions.

The Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management ([ACR+](#)) strongly invites the Commission to stick to its commitments announced one year ago in the Circular Economy Action Plan.

A strategy is essential to address the sector's high impacts and make clear links between existing legislative proposals highlighted within the CEAP [3], and all other relevant legislation currently being revised [4].

**Françoise Bonnet, Secretary General at ACR+**, stated that: *“As a network of cities and regions authorities, who are directly responsible for urban development policies, we strongly invite the Commission to accelerate the uptake of sustainable and circular building solutions.”*

*“In order to generate adequate investments, our members need visibility and a clear commitment by the EU to develop a coherent legislative framework to drive sustainability and circularity of buildings and tackle the construction sector's major environmental impacts.”*

### Key messages from the letter:

- A Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment was announced to be published by the end of 2021.
- The substantial impacts of the sector need to be addressed as soon as possible for the EU to meet its climate goals in 2030 and 2050 respectively.
- In order to accelerate the uptake of sustainable and circular building solutions and harmonised methodologies, and generate adequate investment, the construction value chain as a whole needs visibility and a clear commitment by the EU to develop a coherent legislative framework.
- This strategy is needed to drive sustainability, in part through circular economy practices, to tackle the impacts of buildings and the construction sector.
- Citizens and stakeholder groups now all need clarity and strong coordination from the European Commission – a strategy to deliver a comprehensive approach to sustainability of the built environment.

### Full list of signatories:

#### International organisations

- ACR+ Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management
- Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance (CNCA)
- Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe
- Corporate Leaders Group (CLG) Europe
- Energy Cities
- Environmental Coalition on Standards (ECOS)
- European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
- Eurocities
- ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability - Europe
- International Federation of Landscape Architects - IFLA Europe
- Fire Safe Europe
- RICS – Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
- RREUSE
- Sandbag - smarter climate policy
- World Green Building Council (WGBC) Europe

#### National organisations

- Ecocity (Greece)
- Ecoteca (Romania)
- Environment Engineering Group (Serbia)
- Deutsche Umwelthilfe (Germany)
- The Circular Economy Institute - IGOZ (Poland)
- Friends of the Earth Bulgaria
- Global2000 (Austria)
- Levego Munkacsoport (Hungary)
- Natuur & Milieu (Netherlands)
- Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development MIO-ECSDE (Greece)
- Repairably (Slovakia)
- VšĮ "Žiedinė ekonomika" (Lithuania)
- Zala Briviba (Latvia)
- ZERO – Associação Sistema Terrestre Sustentável (Portugal)
- Zero Waste France (France)
- Zero Waste Association (Poland)



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*The Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management (ACR+) is an international network of cities and regions sharing the aim of promoting sustainable resource management and accelerating the transition towards a circular economy on their territories and beyond. The network, gathering around 90 members, is open to other key players in the field of material resource management such as NGOs, academic institutions, consultancies or private organisations. Members' needs and priorities define the network's activities, which include facilitating the exchange of experiences between members, sharing technical and policy information and livening up the network. To strengthen the knowledge and capacities of the network and push for innovation in the field of material resource management, ACR+ is also involved in several projects at European level and in the Mediterranean region, in cooperation with its members.*

For more information visit our website: [www.acrplus.org](http://www.acrplus.org) or follow us on Twitter: [@ACRplus](https://twitter.com/ACRplus)

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[1] <https://acrplus.org/en/online-resources/position-papers/2838-stakeholders-call-for-delivery-of-eu-strategy-for-a-sustainable-built-environment>

[2] European Commission figures: [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/topics/circular-economy/levels\\_en#ecl-inpage-261](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/topics/circular-economy/levels_en#ecl-inpage-261) and <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/news/sustainable-buildings-europe-s-climate-neutral-future>

[3] Policies proposes to form part of EU Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment: Construction Products Regulation, use of LEVEL(s) in public procurement and the EU sustainable finance framework, addressing Construction & Demolition Waste, LEVEL(s) and soil-related policies, as well as the Renovation Wave

[4] Relevant policies not mentioned in the CEAP: Energy Efficiency Directive and Energy Performance of Buildings Directive