

Topic: Circular Economy Principles for Buildings Design (Design for Deconstruction)

Brief description and main aims:

The European Commission prepared some guidelines, in close co-operation with industry stakeholders entitled Circular Economy Principles for Buildings Design. The work fell under the Construction 2020 initiative, Thematic Group 3 “Sustainable use of natural resources”. The guidelines deal with the concept whereby buildings are designed with the end of life already in mind. The aim is to maximise the opportunities for re-use and recycling of materials from disassembled buildings, by firstly choosing non-toxic and re-useable materials as far as possible and then installing them in ways that facilitate easy disassembly, such as avoiding the use of glues etc.

Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

FIEC supports the Circular Economy in construction. One of the obstacles to recycling and re-use is that materials are often toxic, or do not meet current safety standards, which have superseded those that were in place at the time of construction. Another obstacle is that materials have been installed in ways that make it impossible to recover them at disassembly or demolition stage. The Circular Economy Principles for Buildings Design help to explain how buildings can be better designed and constructed for maximum recycling and re-use opportunities. The document also considers how the potential for an eventual change of use of a building can be accounted for at the design stage. FIEC has long supported this work and was involved in the small stakeholder group dedicated to the development of the principles.

Actions and key dates:

March 2020 – [Principles of Design for Deconstruction](#) published.

11/03/2020 – Circular Economy Action Plan published

14/10/200 – Renovation Wave published, which refers to circular and sustainable design.

