

ON THE OCCASION OF



**More attention will be paid to the environmental sustainability of products during their whole life cycle. Simplified procedures will be adopted without diminishing safety. Regulations will be harmonized. This are just some of the several pieces of news that were introduced in the new EU 305/2011 regulation on the commercialization of construction materials. We had a talk about this interesting news with Mr. Francesco Marinelli, engineer, president of Ecoaction and coordinator of Ecomake's Technical Requirements.**

**The EU has issued a new regulation on construction materials (305/2011). Is it a step forward?**

It's definitely a step forward. First of all, with respect to the old 89/106 regulation, the six basic requirements for buildings have become seven, the new one consisting in the sustainable use of natural resources. Practically, the EU regulations concerning this sector acknowledged the need of preserving natural resources by a controlled use and limited waste of territory, raw and secondary materials. Another innovative aspect consists in the obligation of guaranteeing the core characteristics of construction materials overtime "in order not to menace, throughout their whole life cycle, hygiene, health or safety of workers, dwellers and neighbors and not to have an excessive impact on environmental quality or climate", as the regulation reads.

**Is it a step forward along the path indicated by Ecomake?**

Of course we have to acknowledge that since its beginning Ecomake has conveyed a vision that has taken into consideration the state-of-the-art trends in the construction field, both in terms of regulations and technologies. Such vision lives thanks to new inspirations and suggestions, therefore each Ecomake edition has always something new and innovative to show. The biggest news of this year's edition is summarized by the topic of "Indoor air quality", which is connected to the choice and the use of construction materials. It conveyed the concept of sustainability that has to pass through specific environmental assessments and brings forward last year's work, in advance with respect to today's EU deliberation.

**If you were to take a glance at an even more distant future, how would you see houses in 10 years' time?**

I would bet on deep innovations, almost reaching energy self-sufficiency. Furthermore, the tendency towards innovation will be made easier thanks to the need of more quality rather than quantity in buildings. Quantity-based buildings are not conceivable anymore, and I think 10 years are a sufficient time span for a new house model to become popular. Moreover, energy saving has been addressed by important legislation, but there doesn't seem to be the same approach for healthiness. Therefore, Ecomake tends to bridge this gap, proposing itself as a reference for indoor healthiness.

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## ECOMAKE HIGHLIGHTS

### Italy risks to be sanctioned on the energy certification of buildings

The directive 31/2010, which requires EU Member States to implement the minimum energy performance requirements on buildings, to make sure the certification of the energy performance and to guarantee the regular inspection of heating and cooling systems has still to be implemented. Furthermore, such directive obliges Member States to assure that all new buildings meet the “nearly-zero energy” requirements by 2021. If the regulation –which had to be executed last July– is not implemented by March, the European Court of Justice will intervene.

### New Kyoto Fund: applications to be submitted by April 26<sup>th</sup>

Territorial safety and renewable energies, 460 million euros for the under 35. Funding requests for projects concerning anti-seismic measures, hydrogeological security and green economy employing under-35 young people must be submitted by April 26<sup>th</sup>. The funds are available –basing on the circular 5505/2013 issued by the Italian Ministry for the Environment in agreement with *Cassa Depositi e Prestiti*– thanks to the Kyoto Fund for projects regarding green economy and environmental restoration. Within the fund, 10 millions are reserved to projects submitted by Srls –simplified Ltds–, 70 to environmentalization and requalification interventions in the site located in Taranto. The main part of the fund consists of 380 millions and is aimed at investment projects submitted by companies alone or forming societies or consortia or united by a network contract.

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