

**Europacable calls for improvements to ensure that the new Construction Products Regulation (CPR) effectively promotes sustainable construction products and improved safety levels for European citizens while recognising the key role of industry in the standardisation process.**

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**Europacable, the voice of Europe’s wire and cable industry, calls on EU legislators to improve the proposal for a new Construction Products Regulation (CPR). The aim should be to ensure legal certainty for the promotion of sustainable construction products and improved safety levels all across Europe while recognising the importance of an open and transparent market-driven standardisation.**

The European wire and cable industry has been and is strongly committed to the success of the CPR. This is demonstrated by its active work for more than a decade with the European Commission and Member States to achieve higher fire performance requirements for power, control and communication cables. A high-quality and CPR compliant cable infrastructure plays a key role in ensuring fire safety and providing continuity of power and communication to all crucial devices in case of a fire. Significant efforts and investments both in terms of innovation and product certifications have been undertaken by the industry with the aim of designing and manufacturing products that will contribute to improve safety levels for European citizens.

Furthermore, electrical systems and communication infrastructure using high-quality cables will play an essential role in contributing to the decarbonisation of the building stock through electrification and digitalisation.

With this in mind, Europacable calls on EU Institutions to take into consideration the following improvements to the new CPR proposal to ensure:

- **A clearer definition of “construction products”:** The new CPR has seen its scope significantly broadened: from traditional construction products permanently installed in buildings – as per current CPR – to products which may also be used or placed inside a building for more than two years but have no direct function in the construction work itself. Such wide and unclear definition represents a major risk for potential overlapping with other regulations and market confusion while directly putting a threat to the legal certainty of the new proposal. In addition, the possibility of further broadening the scope by extending the new CPR to other product areas not expressly mentioned in the proposal increases the confusion.

***Europacable strongly recommends that the criterion defining “construction products” from the current CPR is maintained to make sure that the new proposal only covers a product which “has an effect on the performance of the construction works with respect to the basic requirements for construction works”.***

- **Strict alignment of sustainability requirements for all products in the Single Market:** The European Commission has decided to broaden the scope of the new CPR by including environmental sustainability aspects for construction products. In parallel, they have established a framework to improve the environmental sustainability of all other products in the Single Market via the Ecodesign for

Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR). Europacable would have preferred a single solution with sustainability requirements for all products, including construction products, to be covered by the ESPR to avoid duplications. Having the European Commission decided to opt for two separate pieces of legislation, Europacable believes it would be vital to ensure strict alignment between the CPR and ESPR to ensure a consistent and coherent implementation of the new rules all across the EU.

***Europacable strongly recommends that EU legislators ensure that the sustainability aspects of CPR are strictly and fully aligned with the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation.***

- **A higher degree of transparency and clarity regarding the coexistence of the current and future legal framework:** The new CPR sets a long transition period together with different deadlines for implementation. These may conflict with the current legal framework according to which a product family gradually transitions to CPR as soon as dedicated harmonised standards are cited in the Official Journal of the EU (OJEU). The industry expresses serious doubts about the possibility for economic operators and market surveillance authorities to effectively act in such a confusing environment where different requirements – either stemming from the current or the new CPR – would apply for different construction products.

***Europacable strongly recommends that the European Commission provides clear information on the transition processes. In particular, in order to avoid unnecessary disruption in the application of CPR, Europacable calls on EU Institutions to ensure that existing harmonised standards remain valid until the new regime is fully operational and until a new harmonised standard under the new CPR is cited. This should also be the case for necessary updates to existing harmonised standards or the development of new standards already covered by existing standardisation requests.***

- **Targeted short-term solutions for an efficient and effective standardisation process:** Europacable understands that the current standardisation process has been underperforming in the existing CPR, with challenges lying mainly with the legal nature of standards rather than their technical content. The new CPR does not effectively address these challenges, notably the problem with the standards that have been blocked from being released in the OJEU in the short term. Given the importance of CPR concrete short-term actions should be taken to speed up the implementation of the current CPR.

***Europacable recommends that the European Commission issues appropriate guidelines to speed up and streamline the procedure to timely approve and cite standards in the OJEU. This would include faster, more agile, more flexible and consequently more effective process to develop and approve modifications to current classifications and CPR requirements; allow for standards reviews and promote a homogenous application of CPR requirements.***

- **A standardisation system which continues to rely on vital industry support:** The new CPR proposal foresees a more direct involvement of the European Commission in the standardisation process. The EU's executive body would be empowered to intervene – mainly via Delegated Acts – in many areas, including the possibility to develop technical specifications outside the established standardisation system, which could lead to a risk of a decoupling of the technical specifications from 'state of the art' in the market. Europacable believes that such power should be strictly limited, and that the industry input should always be taken into consideration. In

more general terms, the European Commission should refrain from stepping in the standardisation process. CEN and CENELEC are the right players in the system: they have open, inclusive, transparent and democratic standardization processes which ensure that the standards issued by the two organisations represent a broad consensus. Furthermore, they rely on the strong commitment of the industry as well as their expertise and in-depth knowledge of both construction products and market conditions in the development of standards.

***Europacable urges EU Institutions to ensure that the responsibility of CEN and CENELEC in developing all necessary standards for construction products is maintained.***

***In addition, given the European Commission's increased empowerment, Europacable strongly recommends that both the procedure for adopting Delegated Acts and the dialogue with stakeholders should be as transparent and inclusive as possible as industry-expert knowledge is vital for the success of the CPR.***

We call on the European Institutions to take the Europacable input into consideration. We look forward to working with them and other key European stakeholders for developing effective improvements to the new CPR proposal. Europacable firmly believes that the future CPR has to promote sustainable and safe construction products while recognising and maintaining the key role of industry in the standardisation process.

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#### **About Europacable**

Europacable AISBL is the voice of all leading European wire and cable producers. Europacable members include the largest cable makers in the world providing global technology leadership, as well as highly specialized small- and medium sized businesses from across Europe. Globally our members employ over 80.000 people of which more than 50% in Europe generating a worldwide turnover over € 70 billion in 2021. The product scope of our members covers the full range of energy and communication cables. Europacable is listed in the European Commission's transparency register under 453103789-92. We are a partner of CENELEC. [www.europacable.eu](http://www.europacable.eu)