

cement industry update



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Industry News

Economic Growth

Mervyn King, Governor of the Bank of England and Chair of the Monetary Policy Committee, explained the close focus of the bank on inflation targets at a recent CBI lunch. The British Cement Association, represented by its Chief Executive, Mike Gilbert, made points about:

1. Ensuring a continued investment in the built environment as essential to UK competitiveness and expressed disappointment in the 7% growth over the last ten years compared to an EU average of 12%.
2. Energy prices and forward energy markets are of concern to intensive energy users like the cement industry.

3. The need to ensure a competitive investment climate for the industry, bidding within international groups for capital.

Achievable Targets

The Construction Products Association's report, *Achievable Targets – Is Government Delivering*, analysed Government progress in meeting its spending commitments to improve the UK's hospitals, schools, housing and transport and water infrastructure. Launched at the Labour Party Conference and endorsed by CBI Director-General Sir Digby Jones, the report shows little improvement since 2004. It shows that, although a few have been met, the Government has missed a number of its own key targets for improving public buildings and transport. The report classifies others as 'now at risk', and highlights social housing and schools as two areas of special concern. Further information: [CPA website](#)

Concrete Information Limited

Concrete Information Limited, an information service to the cement and concrete industry, will become part of The Concrete Society. The Concrete Centre will provide financial support for the merger, which is due to be completed by the end of 2005.

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Sustainability

Working towards sustainability

The UK cement industry will launch a report on its progress towards sustainability at a House of Commons reception on 1 November. Hosted by Lembit Opik MP, the event will include short presentations by Jonathon Porritt (CBE), Chair of the Government's Sustainable Development Commission and Forum for the Future, and Sir Neville Simms, Chair of the Government's Sustainable Procurement Task Force.

The industry set up a Sustainable Development Task Force in 2004 to formalise steps it can take to address sustainability challenges. Its goal was to demonstrate continually improving performance by setting and reviewing targets on environmental, economic and social objectives. The report charts progress and will be available to download from the [BCA website](#) after the launch event.

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Consultations

Review of The Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 1994 and the UK Management Plan for Exports and Imports of Waste

Defra is seeking initial views on the scope of these reviews and suggestions on improvements which could be made to these pieces of legislation. Deadline for initial views is 5 December 2005. Further information: [Defra, UK - Environmental Protection - Consultations](#)

Administrative Burdens Reduction Project

The cross-government [Administrative Burdens Reduction](#) measurement exercise has been launched. The measurement exercise will identify the administrative burdens placed on business, charities and the voluntary sector by regulation. The resulting baseline will be used by the government to set targets for reductions.

A new better regulation portal at www.betterregulation.gov.uk is also being launched which delivers the process for stakeholders to make regulatory simplification suggestions to government, as recommended in the BRTF report 'Less is More'. This is an additional route into government for such proposals on top of departments' existing channels which they are already exploiting to inform their simplification plans.

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Events

BCA Berthold Lubetkin Memorial Lecture

The annual lecture, sponsored by The Concrete Centre, will be presented on 10 November by structural engineer Anthony Hunt from SKM Anthony Hunts. The lecture starts at 7pm, preceded by a drinks reception at 6pm, RIBA.

Revitalising Health & Safety Conference

The BCA Revitalising Health & Safety conference will be held on Tuesday, 22 November at the Bank House Hotel in Worcester.

For updates on all BCA conferences, please visit www.cementindustry.co.uk.

The Latest Developments in Concrete

A day of free seminars offering up to four hours CPD, Tuesday 1 November in Birmingham. The day will consist of a series of presentations, grouped into three sessions - [civil engineering](#), [housing](#) and [structural engineering](#). Each session will examine innovative construction techniques and products, detailing options that offer viable, cost effective, sustainable solutions. Further information: The Concrete Centre, Tel: 0700 4 500 500 or www.concretecentre.com/events

Concrete Works

A BCA sponsored exhibition of sculptural work in concrete by Carole Vincent at The Devon Guild of Craftsmen, Riverside Mill, Bovey Tracey, Devon. Exhibition runs from 24 September to 6 November 2005. www.crafts.org.uk

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Please visit www.cementindustry.co.uk <<http://www.cementindustry.co.uk/>> for all the latest news and updates from the industry.

For comments or contributions, please contact Liezel Tipper, Press Officer, on telephone: 01276 608707 or email: ltipper@bca.org.uk
