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FIEC Annual Conference 2026: Innovation at the Heart of Europe's Construction

With its 2026 congress in Paris, together with European and national policy makers, industry leaders and innovators, FIEC explores how to foster innovation in construction and to turn it into concrete actions.

The **European Construction Industry Federation** (FIEC) successfully held its *Annual Conference & General Assembly* on 28–29 May in Paris, hosted by its French member federations, the *Fédération Française du Bâtiment* (FFB) and the *Fédération Nationale des Travaux Publics* (FNTP), at the prestigious *Institut de France*.

Bringing together key stakeholders from across Europe, this year's edition of the gathering of the construction sector was set under the theme:

“Innovation in Action: Practical Solutions Transforming Construction”

The event brought together European and national policymakers, industry leaders and innovators to explore how the construction sector can translate innovation into concrete results.

The conference focused on the role of innovation, digitalisation and data in strengthening the competitiveness, sustainability and resilience of Europe's construction sector, while addressing key challenges such as the green transition, labour and skills shortages, rising costs, and housing needs.

Opening the event, FIEC (outgoing) President **Piero Petrucco** stressed the sector's responsibility in driving transformation across Europe: “*Innovation is no longer optional; it is essential for*

the construction sector to remain competitive and to respond to Europe's major societal and environmental challenges.” He also highlighted the importance of collective action and the need for a supportive framework enabling companies of all sizes to invest in and deploy innovative solutions.

FNTP President **Alain Grizaud** also welcomed participants. Institutional support was reflected through a contribution by **Vincent Jeanbrun**, French Minister for Housing, who addressed participants via [video-message](#).



A keynote address was delivered by **Thierry Breton**, former French Minister for the Economy, Finance and Industry and former EU Commissioner for the Internal Market, who underlined the broader geopolitical and economic context in which European industries are evolving:

“The cornerstone of the post-war world was trust – and that cornerstone is now disintegrating. The old times will not return, and Europe must demonstrate it can handle a new balance of power: strengthening the Single Market, keeping it open to partners, and making clear that we set our own rules.”

He underlined the strategic importance of data as a driver of innovation, efficiency and competitiveness in the construction sector.



Inspiration from industry and innovation leaders



In a panel discussion, **Natalia Zebrowska**, Head of Unit “Construction” at the *European Commission* (DG GROW), emphasised the role of digital tools in enabling structural transformation: *“Digitalisation is the most effective way to achieve operational simplification. By improving data accessibility and automating processes, we can increase efficiency, reduce compliance burdens and free up resources for innovation.”*

She underlined the importance of deploying key digital tools such as *Building Information Modelling* (BIM), *Digital Product Passports*, digital building logbooks and digital permitting systems, as well as ensuring their scalability across the construction ecosystem. And she further stressed the need to harness the Single Market and advance the implementation of the revised *Construction Products Regulation* to support harmonised standards and stimulate demand for sustainable and innovative construction solutions.

This message resonated strongly with the conference’s central theme: data is becoming a key enabler of innovation, allowing companies to transform processes, improve performance, and scale solutions.

Jean-Stéphane Didier (Managing Director Construction, *Léon Grosse*), **Tycho De Back** (AI Program Lead, *Buildwise*) and **Gilles Godard** (Chairman of FNTF Europe-International Committee) also intervened in the panel discussion with focus on how construction companies can go from innovative ideas to concrete actions.



A series of contributions showcased how innovation is already being deployed across the sector. A video by **Bouygues Construction** highlighted the [Scale One](#) project, followed by a fireside chat with **Saurabh Mishra**, Founder and CEO of Taiyō.AI, who set the scene by exploring how data and artificial intelligence are transforming construction ecosystems. A video from **VINCI** presented the [Leonard](#) innovation platform, further illustrating how large companies are investing in research, experimentation and collaboration.

An [exhibition](#) running alongside the conference showcased practical solutions across 3 key areas:

- Sustainable solutions for buildings and infrastructure
- Smart construction and efficiency tools
- Training and safety on worksites

Conclusion: turning ambition into reality

Closing remarks were delivered by **Olivier Salleron** (FFB President) and **Jean-Pierre Paseri** (FIEC First Vice-President and [new President of FIEC](#) as of 30 May).

Mr Paseri remarked that the Conference clearly demonstrated that *“the construction sector is evolving rapidly, driven by innovation, digitalisation and a growing recognition of the importance of data (...). The challenge is no longer to conceive solutions - but to implement them at scale.”*

Paseri reaffirmed the federation’s commitment to supporting the sector’s transformation and strengthening its resilience and underlined that *“the European construction community needs a strong voice”* to impact the decision-making process, as *“innovation only delivers value when it is translated into action”*.

ABOUT FIEC

Through its 33 national member associations in 28 countries (25 EU countries, Norway, Switzerland and Ukraine), the European Construction Industry Federation represents construction companies of all sizes, i.e., small, and medium-sized enterprises and "global players", carrying out all forms of building and civil engineering activities.

FIEC is officially recognised sectoral social partner in the European Social Dialogue for Construction.

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