Environmentally Sustainable Construction Products and Materials – Assessment of release
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The construction sector consumes yearly about half of all natural resources extracted in Europe and their transformation into building products has huge energy demands. Therefore the focus of today's environmental policy is on the building end-of-life scenarios and material efficiency.

Here waste prevention and recycling / reuse play a key role by providing huge energy, water and material savings. These issues are also specifically addressed in the Construction Products Regulation (CPR2011), where health and safety aspects related to use of construction products cover the entire lifecycle.

Meanwhile the building sector is moving from new buildings towards maintenance and renovation. This trend will probably further increase by the energy conservation activities that will be required to achieve the 20-20-20 goals outlined by EC resulting in a need of renovation of a huge amount of buildings. Until today hardly any construction product is designed keeping recycling/reuse in mind, the “Design for the Environment” -concept is one of the key steps towards increased recycling and reuse and thereby towards minimal environmental impacts.

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