



21 June 2022, Rome – 2022 European Ceramic Tile Manufacturers Federation (CET) Congress hosted by Confindustria Ceramica on 8-10 June in Rome, Italy.

CET members represented by executives from the European ceramic tiles industry and national associations from all over Europe gathered in person for a 3-day Congress to attend the CET General Assembly and discuss current and future EU policies relevant to the ceramic tiles sector which represents over 50.000 direct employees, a turnover of € 12 billion and an EU export value close to € 5 billion.

The CET Congress opened on Wednesday 8 June with the CET Executive Committee and continued with the General Assembly on the following day. The meeting addressed a broad range of developments and initiatives related to climate & energy, market access, trade defence, access to raw materials, health & safety, environment protection and the internal market.

As a key provider of sustainable construction materials it is essential that the ceramic tiles industry can continue to contribute to the EU's strategic autonomy throughout the building sector's value chain.

In the context of the "Fit For 55" package proposed by the European Commission on 14 July 2021 and currently on the agenda of the European Parliament, CET members discussed the conditions which will have to be met before the ceramic tiles industry can evolve towards decarbonisation. In addition to the availability of technologies and alternative energy sources, the decarbonisation of the industry will highly depend on the regulatory framework which will need to ensure a fair level playing field and prevent the risk of relocation, also called "carbon leakage" under Directive 2003/87/EC on the Emissions Trading System. Lastly, in order to enable investments in decarbonisation, the regulatory framework will need to avoid carbon price volatility by preventing speculative practices observed in 2021.

In the meantime, the EU ceramic tiles industry still depends at 80% on natural gas and continued access to this energy source is vital to the ceramic tiles sector. The current energy crisis and the consequences of the aggression against Ukraine need to be tackled urgently in order to prevent severe adverse social impacts and further supply chain disruptions in the housing market.

In this context, CET President Roman Blažíček called on the EU legislator *"to stabilise the energy crisis, secure access to raw materials and establish a stable and predictable regulatory framework to incentivise investments in decarbonisation in the EU while preserving the competitiveness of essential industries such as the ceramic industry"*.

Mr Blažíček concluded the CET Congress thanking Confindustria Ceramica for its great hospitality and perfect organisation and invited CET members to join the next CET Congress to be held on 15-16 June 2023.

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