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Issue 9 - July 2017

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The biannual Cerame-Unie Newsletter is here to inform you of all key activities relevant to the European ceramic industry.



Save the Date: The 2017 Ceramic days will be taking place from Tuesday 21 November until Wednesday 22 November 2017 [\(+\)](#).

Industry news

Meetings: CU Board of Presidents meeting with Deputy Directors General of DG Grow & DG Trade [\(+\)](#). Kick-off meeting of the European Bathroom Forum [\(+\)](#). CU Trade Working Group met with DG Trade [\(+\)](#). European refractory industry held a successful congress in Chester [\(+\)](#). EU Tiles and Bricks executives attended 2017 TBE Congress [\(+\)](#). The European Ceramic Tiles Manufacturers' Federation held its annual congress in Córdoba [\(+\)](#).

CU Staff and Membership updates: Cerame-Unie has two new staff members [\(+\)](#). TBE has a new President and FEFP has a new Vice-President [\(+\)](#).

Joint Declaration: Together with 130 Associations, Cerame-Unie has signed the Joint Declaration for an ambitious EU industrial strategy [\(+\)](#).

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Trade & Internal market

FTAs negotiations: Cerame-Unie has been closely [following](#) the recent evolution regarding the CETA. The Agreement is now supposed to enter into provisional application on 21 September. It is expected to have a positive impact on the ceramic exports to Canada especially SMEs as it will [reduce](#) the custom duties from up to 8% to 0% [\(+\)](#).

Market access and trade barriers: During the first half of the year the European Ceramic industry has faced trade barriers in some northern African countries [\(+\)](#).

Trade and Internal market: In the first half of 2017, Cerame-Unie actively followed discussions on trade defence instruments. Cerame-Unie attended the MES China Action Group debate of the European Parliament in January [\(+\)](#). Renaud Batier, DG Cerame-Unie, spoke on the second panel of the International Trade Committee public hearing on EU Trade Defence Instruments in February [\(+\)](#). As a member of AEGIS Europe, Cerame-Unie [believes](#) that a meaningful three-step process should appear in the basic anti-dumping regulation [\(+\)](#).

Climate & Energy

Clean Energy for all Europeans – AEII statement: Energy Intensive Industries make a series of recommendations to deliver on Europe's ambitious transition to a low-carbon energy system [\(+\)](#).

EU ETS directive review: "No trade off on Fairness" - Fair EU ETS Alliance recommendations [\(+\)](#).

Energy Prices and Costs Study: Cerame-Unie hosted a workshop on "Energy prices and costs in the ceramic industry". It brought together officials from the European Commission, academics and ceramic industry representatives in order to present the outcomes of the European Commission's Energy prices and costs report [\(+\)](#).

Environment & Health

2017, Cerame-Unie attended a joint European Commission and Committee of the Regions conference to launch “An Action Plan for nature, people, and the economy” [\(+\)](#).

Titanium Dioxide: ECHA's Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) has reached the opinion that titanium dioxide meets the criteria in the CLP Regulation to be classified as a substance that is suspected of causing cancer through inhalation. Read ECHA's [press release](#) and a [reaction](#) from the Titanium Dioxide Manufacturers Association.

Construction & Sustainability

Consultation on CPR: On 20 June, the European Commission launched the public consultation “Evaluation and possible revision of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR)” to collect input from stakeholders on the future of this regulation [\(+\)](#).

Updates on the EPBD: [The draft report](#) from MEP Bendtsen was discussed at the ITRE committee on 29 May. A committee vote is expected on 11 October and the full plenary vote in November [\(+\)](#).

Circular Economy: Cerame-Unie gave input on the Circular Economy Monitoring Framework during a meeting with the European Commission and Eurostat on 18 May 2017 [\(+\)](#). On 7 June 2017, Cerame-Unie participated in Business Europe's “High-level event on circular economy” [\(+\)](#).

Research & Innovation

EU projects: LifeHerotile is a European research project that will facilitate the development and implementation of energy savings approaches, through the development of roof tiles able to increase their underlay ventilation [\(+\)](#). SHAREBOX presented at 7th Impact Workshop on cPPPs [\(+\)](#). The DryFiciency project (H2020/SPIRE) was presented at the [DecarbHeat](#) conference in May [\(+\)](#).

EU funding: The EC proposes an Innovation Fund [\(+\)](#). The HARMONI project was notified that it would receive funding from the European Union [\(+\)](#). A non-exhaustive inventory of EU financed project relevant to the ceramic industry is available [\(+\)](#).

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The European ceramic industry covers a wide range of products including abrasives, bricks & roof tiles, clay pipes, wall & floor tiles, refractories, sanitaryware, table- & ornamentalware, technical ceramics and porcelain enamel. The industry generates over 200,000 direct jobs and a production value of €30 billion within the EU.



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