

Programme

Harmonisation of Nordic building regulations

Thursday 23rd of March at 10:00 - 16:00, Radisson Blue Plaza, Oslo

Time: 23 March, 2023

Venue: Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, Oslo

Invited participants: Members of the Nordic Steering Group for Harmonisation of Building Regulations, representatives of relevant trade associations and relevant political representatives.

Organized by Association of European Border Regions, Nordic Council of Ministers and The Svinesund Committee.

Background

The Nordic Region has fine traditions in wood construction. Wood construction is primarily dominant in the single-family house market, but there is also a growing interest in increased use of wood in multi-family houses. The Nordic Council of Ministers has also prioritized wood as a sustainable future building material, but also on other efforts to enhance cheaper and more sustainable house building.

The Svinesund Committee has highlighted the opportunities for companies along the Swedish-Norwegian border to work with constructions on both sides of the border, but also identified described perceived border obstacles like different regulation. Since the construction industry is an important business sector in the whole EU the Association of European Border Regions has prioritized the issue and presented a so-called b-solution to the problem.

A reduction of border obstacles would provide opportunities for small and medium sized companies to work across national borders, which would increase competition and hopefully push down prices in an industry that is characterised by negative productivity, i.e. construction costs have increased faster than the cost price index.

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– moderated by Caitriona Mullan, Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)

10.00 - 11:15

Opening address by Secretary General Karen Ellemann, Nordic Council of Ministers and Chairman Linda Engsmyr, The Svinesund Committee

How can EU help to remove border obstacles?

Martin Guillermo Ramirez, Secretary General of AEBR & Ricardo Ferreira, Co-ordinator of DG REGIO Border Focal Point

Pathways towards b-solutions of perceived border obstacles linked to wood construction

Dr. Kjell Nilsson, Nilsson Landscape

11:15 - 11:30 Coffee and mingle

11.30 - 13.00

THEME 1: What problems do the different regulations cause the industry?

Case: The border between Norway and Sweden

Local entrepreneurs: Jonas Fred Hell, co-owner, Fridh & Hell's Bygg, Bengtsfors & Lars Atterfors, co-owner, INWOCO AB, Innovative Wood Construction, Bengtsfors

(Lars has 25 years of experience of industrial work in wood incl. 11 years at Moelven, Norway's largest supplier of wood construction products)

Organisations: Sandra Sundbäck, CEO, Paper Province & Berit Sanness, Head of office, Norwegian Wood Cluster

Support and services offered by cross-border committees: Cecilia Nilsson, CEO and Annika

Daisley, Project Manager, The Svinesund Committee

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 15:30

THEME 2: Harmonisation of the building and construction regulation

Building regulations for the future that provide greater flexibility and opportunities but also entail greater responsibility

Anders Sjølvgren, Director General, Boverket

Harmonisation and digitalisation

– the chicken or the egg?

Susanne Nellemann Ek, CEO, BIM Alliance & Øivind Rooth, Norwegian Building Authority, Chair of CEN/TC442 - Building Information Modelling

We can build cheaper with common Nordic rules

Bent Madsen, CEO, BL – Danmarks Almene Boliger, chairman of NBO Housing Nordic

An integrated Nordic construction market

Matti Kuittinen, Senior Ministerial Adviser, Finnish Ministry of Environment

15.30 - 16.00

Discussions with politicians

Recommendations to the Nordic Ministers for Housing and Construction

