

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

GYPSUM FORUM

**A CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR:
The Gypsum Example
Views of Stakeholders**



TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAIN

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Gypsum is indefinitely recyclable and its recycling leads to benefits for the whole of society

- ▶ Gypsum products like plaster have been used by man in construction or decoration since as early as 9000 B.C
- ▶ Gypsum-based construction products are amongst the very few materials where **“closed-loop” recycling** is possible.
- ▶ The physical characteristics of gypsum in the raw material and in plasterboards are the same.



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By recycling more, the Gypsum Sector saves natural resources and reduces its environmental impact.

- ▶ The technology to transform the Gypsum Based Waste into recyclable gypsum already exists even though there is scope for further improvements.
- ▶ But, obtaining high rates of recycled content in gypsum based products will require important investments throughout the value chain



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European Commission and Members States can support gypsum recycling by favoring deconstruction versus demolition

in the majority of Members States, buildings are currently demolished and not deconstructed. Dismantling buildings is the only way to obtain the high quality, well-sorted waste stream meeting the requirements of the industrial processes.



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Pushing the correct implementation of the current EU waste legislation in a harmonized way across Europe.

This issue is crucial to drive **recycling and dismantling** forward. The European Commission should undertake actions to close the gap between the ambition of the original legislation and the end-result.



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Fostering the economic competitiveness of the recycling route compared to other currently permitted routes.

- ▶ The landfill route often remains the most profitable and thus most attractive waste treatment route, even for recyclable materials.
- ▶ In this respect the European Commission should reinforce the legal framework in order to discourage the disposal of recyclable gypsum based waste in landfills.



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Turning waste into a resource

- ▶ Diverting the waste stream from landfill route allows recyclers and gypsum industry to invest with confidence.
- ▶ Recycled gypsum shall become a trusted resource once having legally obtained the **end-of waste status** at European or national level in accordance to article 6 of the Waste Framework Directive.



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