

Europe's footprint

**"IF THE REST OF THE WORLD USED
AS MANY RESOURCES AS WE DO, WE
WOULD NEED MORE THAN TWO EARTHS"**

**Stavros Dimas on boosting
the EU's green credentials**

INSIDE:

**MEPs Justas Vincas Paleckis, Jorgo
Chatzimarkakis, Struan Stevenson**

**EEA executive director Jacqueline
McGlade**

**UN Environment Programme's
deputy director Angela Cropper**

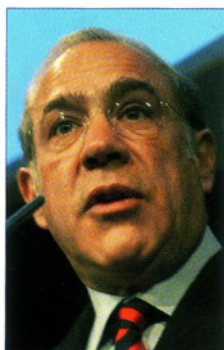
Green Week supplement

OECD Forum:

Angel Gurría
Asit Biswas
Cecilia Tortajada
Steve Westwell
James Leape

No tobacco day

David Martin



PLUS:

Greenwashing,
World environment
day, ETS, Solar days
and more

Enlargement fatigue:

Elmar Brok



In association with



GE imagination at work

Sustainable Construction

Autoclaved Aerated Concrete



→ Autoclaved Aerated Concrete

AAC is a very strong but lightweight and easy to use construction material for exterior and interior environments alike. The production process involves curing aerated concrete in a pressurised steam chamber, known as an autoclave, to give AAC its strength.

Members of the European Autoclaved Aerated Concrete Association operate more than 100 production sites in 17 countries producing around 20 million m³ of AAC per year. From this quantity about 400.000 residences can be built.

→ High energy efficiency:

Greater use of AAC in new construction and in renovation of old buildings represents a major way to reduce the energy consumption of residential and non-residential buildings across Europe.

→ Inherent thermal insulation properties:

The use of AAC reduces the need for space heating and cooling. Furthermore, it makes the use of additional materials unnecessary.

→ Energy-efficient over its whole life cycle:

The production of AAC requires less energy than other construction materials and its light weight saves energy in transportation. AAC is extremely cost-effective.

→ High fire resistance:

AAC can be used as internal as well as external fire walls, resisting even intense heat and easily fulfilling all fire safety standards.

→ Outstanding structural performance:

AAC is extremely strong and durable. It retains its properties for the entire life of a building and can resist wind, earthquake, rain (also acidrain), storm and a wide range of external temperatures.

→ High resource efficiency, low environmental impact:

Autoclaved aerated concrete's high resource efficiency gives it low environmental impact in all phases of its life cycle, from processing of raw materials to the disposal of AAC waste.

→ Reuse, recovery and disposal:

Potential AAC waste is reused or recycled to minimize final disposal in landfill. Where AAC waste is sent to landfill, its environmental impact is minor since it contains no toxic substances.

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