

## **Cement co-processing: a sustainable solution for end-of-life composite materials**

*Brussels, 5 July 2023 – Today, EBI together with other six industry associations working on increasing the circularity of composite materials, have published a statement highlighting the important role cement co-processing can play in treating end-of-life composite materials.*

Together, our associations call on policymakers to recognise these benefits and facilitate the upscaling of co-processing with a more supportive EU regulatory framework. The European Commission and the national authorities should recognise cement co-processing as a recycling process to allow the EU to foster industry growth and ensure a circular future for both the cement and composite material sectors.

Composite materials, a combination of reinforced fibres (usually glass or carbon fibres) and a polymer matrix, are known for their durability, exceptional chemical and heat resistance properties. They are therefore extensively used across various sectors including wind, marine, infrastructure, and industrial markets.

Whilst their durability is a great advantage during their operational lifetime, recycling end-of-life composite materials has been technically challenging due to the difficulty of separating the constituent fibres and polymers.

Cement co-processing offers a sustainable and circular solution to this challenge. Co-processing allows for the comprehensive recycling of end-of-life composite materials with glass fibres, while simultaneously mitigating climate change through the reduction of natural raw materials in cement manufacturing and the replacement of fossil energy sources.

The seven associations are further collaborating to promote sustainable recycling approaches for the end-of-life composite materials with more actions planned in the coming months.

The joint position paper continues EBI's leadership in advancing a sustainable approach to recycling of end-of-life boats. It contributes to implementation of the "European Roadmap on the implementation of the circular economy for end-of-life recreational boats" published in March 2023<sup>1</sup>. Through the Roadmap, EBI committed itself to phase unsustainable recycling technologies by 2030.

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### **About European Boating Industry (EBI)**

EBI represents the recreational boating industry in Europe. It encompasses all related sectors, such as boatbuilding, equipment manufacturing, marinas and service providers. The industry is a significant

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[https://europeanboatingindustry.eu/media/k2/attachments/Boating\\_industry\\_sets\\_ambitious\\_2030\\_target\\_on\\_end-of-life\\_boats.pdf](https://europeanboatingindustry.eu/media/k2/attachments/Boating_industry_sets_ambitious_2030_target_on_end-of-life_boats.pdf)

contributor to the European economy, representing 32,000 companies, predominantly SMEs that employ over 280,000 people directly. The mission of EBI is to advance and represent a sustainable boating and nautical tourism industry #MadeInEurope. More information on EBI's website: [www.europeanboatingindustry.eu](http://www.europeanboatingindustry.eu)