

Preface by EuLA

The European Lime Association (“EuLA”) was established in 1990 to provide sector-based representation for the European lime industry and represents European non-captive lime production through its 24 covered Member States (companies & national associations). Based in Brussels, EuLA is the decisive voice of lime producers in Europe and aims to promote the safe and sustainable production of lime.

Although it is often an unseen ingredient, lime is one of the essential building blocks of modern industry and is an essential mineral for key European value chains. Lime possesses many functionalities used in downstream industries and is used in various applications such as building materials, steel production, glass, soil treatment, drinking water purification, making sugar and flue gas treatment. Lime and its derivatives are also important raw materials for making paper, as well as in agriculture and its products.

In building materials, in addition to its well-known functionalities, lime serves as a significant carbon sink. In lime based mortars (including renders and plasters), the hardening and mechanical performances are due to the carbonation, and thus go hand in hand with the CO₂ uptake of lime. Likewise, in Sand Lime Bricks and Autoclaved Aerated Concrete, major shares of the CO₂ from the production process are sequestered during the construction and use phase of the material. Plus, lime is a preferred binder used in biomass-based innovative building materials (such as hemp-based materials) where it actively contributes to capture and store atmospheric CO₂ through the carbonation process over the life cycle of the material.

The Building Materials Task Force of the European Lime Association is proud to be a founding partner of the SUBLime project. Industrial-academic partnerships are essential for addressing today’s challenges of our industry. Collaborating with leading academic institutions allows us to grow by innovative research and technological developments, driving improvements in lime production and use. These partnerships help us tackle complex challenges, such as reducing carbon emissions and enhancing resource efficiency, by leveraging cutting-edge scientific insights. Additionally, the interaction with early-stage researchers helps sustain highly skilled professionals with the latest expertise, ensuring the competitiveness of our industry in a rapidly evolving global context. Through joint research initiatives, we accelerate innovation and explore new applications for lime products, contributing to a more sustainable and efficient industry and society.

The SUBLime Conference provides a platform for researchers, industry leaders, and policymakers to exchange knowledge, explore innovative solutions, and foster collaborations that allow for advancing sustainable masonry construction, and propel the lime industry forward. As the European Lime Association, we are delighted to support this event, which plays a vital role in shaping a sustainable and competitive future for our industry.

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