

## **RECYCLING CONGRESS sets new impulses from practice for practice**

**“The ideas are there, the future is all about the realisation.”**

**COLOGNE, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**17 months after the German Substitute Building Materials Ordinance (EBV) came into force, speakers and attendees at the RECYCLING CONGRESS in Stockstadt summarised the ordinance on the requirements for the installation of mineral substitute building materials. The presentations clearly showed what is already working well in connection with the EBV and where there is still a need for optimisation. Manufacturers, users, representatives of the authorities, lawyers and experts presented their points of view and repeatedly referred to practice.**

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### Press Release

Around 200 interested professional visitors attended the RECYCLING CONGRESS on 12 and 13 February 2025 at the Coreum in Stockstadt. The congress was organised by DA Service GmbH for the first time on the initiative of the German Demolition Association's (DA) Recycling and Disposal Committee. At the start on 12 February, many attendees took part in a guided tour of the Coreum Expo Park, during which recycling solutions were presented. At the evening get-together, the attendees came together over dinner to socialise in a relaxed atmosphere.

The focus throughout the event was on practical relevance. This was also emphasised by Johannes Schlenker, Chairman of the DA Executive Board, in his opening speech on 13 February, the actual day of the congress. The subtitle “From practice for practice” was deliberately chosen to offer all attendees practical solutions. Michael Weiß, Chairman of the DA's Recycling and Waste Management Committee, led through the wide-ranging programme of presentations and drew a brief conclusion after each one.

Katrin Mees, head of the DA office in Berlin, introduced the topic and first gave an overview of the results of the member survey on the implementation of the EBV and highlighted the main problems with implementation, but also pointed out possible solutions.

### **Acceptance of recycled building materials benefits from EBV**

As someone who is directly affected by the EBV, Robert Oettinger, Managing

Director of Oettinger GmbH, reported on best practice examples for the production and use of mineral substitute building materials and soils. “One ordinance is better than 16 different regulations. The acceptance of recycled building materials has increased. The manufacturers who have worked well and cleanly before are also doing very well now”, says the entrepreneur.

After each lecture block, attendees had the opportunity to engage in dialogue with the speakers during a discussion. Attendees at the conference also used the regular breaks to socialise with other attendees, network and exchange ideas. The short, informal conversations at the coffee table were just as valuable as the technical discussions during the presentations.

In his presentation, Klaus Mesters from KM GmbH für Straßenbau und Umwelttechnik broke down the complex topic of external monitoring for manufacturers and showed that, based on his experience with external monitoring, shifts in material flows can definitely be demonstrably recognised due to the EBV limit values. In addition to his presentation of numerous practical solutions, Christoph Bocker from the Steinfurt District Environmental Agency reported on regular dialogue with other districts. “The EBV is compact, but not specific enough”, was his main criticism. In the course of the presentations, however, not only were problems, difficulties and questions regarding the implementation of the EBV addressed, but individual solutions were also repeatedly presented in accordance with the event concept.

### **End of waste possible for all mineral substitute building materials?**

The RECYCLING CONGRESS was also unable to overlook the legal matter, and so lawyer Dr Markus Pauly gave an overview of the legal situation and the development of the content of the EBV with regard to the end of waste. Unfortunately, the various federal state decrees only take into account the good qualities of the MDBs, but from the lawyer's point of view, RC-2 and RC-3 class material can also reach the end of waste. The regulation is subject to considerable legal doubt. He impressively demonstrated that the manufacturer of mineral substitute building materials can already reach the end of waste for his material based on the current legal situation according to the Closed Substance Cycle Waste Management Act, but in fairness also pointed out the possible liability risks for the contractor in this context. “If the requirements for the end of waste status are met, the waste status no longer applies”, said Pauly. The end-of-waste status is therefore possible for all mineral substitute building materials.

### **Panel discussion offers space for visions and practice**

A lively panel discussion brought up the exciting divergence between the politically often celebrated visions of a future circular economy and the current technically and economically realisable possibilities in a vivid way. The hyped component exchanges and the idea of having to reuse everything are unrealistic, as a 100 per cent reuse rate cannot be achieved.

Another focus of the discussion was the aim of the EBV. This consisted of legal certainty, a standardised regulation for all federal states and more sales for RC materials. Michael Weiß, who moderated the panel discussion, asked the attendees about the implementation status and whether acceptance could be increased. A clear increase in mobile processing in larger demolition companies could be observed, but also an increase in monitoring. Finally, the panellists were asked to state their wishes for the legislator. In order to achieve equivalence between primary and secondary building materials, the technical tests for both materials would also have to be standardised, as the extensive tests in accordance with the EBV currently only apply to secondary materials. The technical equivalence of RC materials is given, therefore a prioritisation obligation for RC materials should be imposed. Support from the public sector is also desirable to promote acceptance and demand.

Michael Kreppold, Managing Director of Konrad Kreppold GmbH, demonstrated that the production of aggregates and aggregates for R-concrete can be a second mainstay for processors. Finally, Dr Gregor Silvers from Max Wild GmbH gave a further practical insight into the company's own floor washing plant and answered the question of how the quality of the end product can be improved.

After a day full of practical insights, solutions, opinions, discussions and dialogue, Michael Weiß bid the audience farewell. He concluded that the ideas were there, and that the future would be about implementing them.

Signs 6.622

Press Images:

**Photo 1: RECYCLING CONGRESS Guided Tour**

The event kicked off with a guided tour of the Coreum Expo Park, where innovative recycling solutions were presented.

**Photo 2: RECYCLING CONGRESS Audience**

Around 200 interested people attended the specialist congress in Stockstadt.

**Photo 3: RECYCLING CONGRESS Christopher Bocker**

Christopher Bocker from the Steinfurt District Environmental Agency describes his experiences with EBV from the perspective of a representative of the authorities.

**Photo 4: RECYCLING CONGRESS Dr. Markus Pauly**

Lawyer Dr Markus Pauly is convinced of the end of waste for all mineral substitute building materials.

**Photo 5: RECYCLING CONGRESS Panel discussion**

Moderator Michael Weiß, Dr Markus Pauly, Robert Oettinger, Klaus Mesters and Gunther Weyer (from left to right) led a lively panel discussion.

**Photo 6: RECYCLING CONGRESS Network**

Throughout the event, the attendees had numerous opportunities to exchange ideas and network.

**Photo 7: RECYCLING CONGRESS**

Cover picture of the Recycling Congress

Since 1951, the Deutscher Abbruchverband e.V. – DA (German Demolition Association) has been the leading business association in the demolition industry with a head office in Cologne and a further office in Berlin. Its over 850 member companies come from the fields of construction and industrial demolition as well as mineral waste recycling and remediation of pollutants. Engineering offices and machine manufacturers support the association as supporting members. The DA provides its members and the general public with comprehensive information on the technical and legal bases of demolition work and its development and ensures that practical experience is incorporated into political and economic decisions as well as into technical standards and regulations, especially in the environmental field. The focus of the association's activities is on education and training, environmental and recycling issues in connection with demolition work and construction waste, as well as quality assurance during demolition and dismantling.