



23 March 2022

Ms. Dolors Montserrat
Chair of the Petitions Committee
European Parliament
B-1047 Brussels
Belgium

BY EMAIL to d.montserrat@europarl.europa.eu

Re: Petitions on the use of defective mica blocks in construction and alleged non-compliance with the Construction Products Regulation in Ireland

Dear Chair,

I refer to your letter of 14 December 2021.

At the outset I would like to acknowledge the difficulties that homeowners in Donegal, and elsewhere, are facing due to the presence of deleterious material in their houses. In recognition of this, the Irish Government has put a number of measures in place to support homeowners including providing considerable financial assistance to remediate their homes. The details of the Government's response and supports provided are set out in Appendix 1 – Section 1.

In response to your request regarding Ireland's implementation of EU legislation concerning Construction Products Regulation and consumer protection, I have provided a full account of the regulatory landscape in relation to construction products, building control and consumer protection along with the ongoing improvements being made in the interest of strengthening these systems at both European and at National level in Appendix 1 – Sections 2 and 3.

Ireland has over the last 30 years, since the introduction of Construction Products Directive in the early 1990s, transposed and established all of the necessary structures to ensure EU construction product legislation is fully implemented. Ireland has also engaged with the all key industry stakeholders to assist in the understanding of the regulatory systems and in its practical implementation. Ireland has, and continues to, proactively engage with the European Commission in support of the reforms that have taken place in the complex area of construction products legislation and the improvements that are currently being pursued in the interest of strengthening the system. This is set out in Appendix 1 - Section 2. Ireland shares the view of the European Commission that the CPR needs to be reviewed and looks forward to working in partnership to improve the operation of the regulatory environment for



construction products and the associated technical standards. Ireland is of the view that the experience it has gained in relation to the identification of deleterious material, such as mica and pyrite, in construction products will be of benefit to the process that is underway in regard to the strengthening of technical standards.

In response to defects that have come to light in Irish buildings built during the construction boom of the early 2000s (including defective concrete blocks), the Irish Government has embarked on a range of building control reforms. Since 2011, the reforms have focused primarily on ensuring strong and effective regulation in the building control system and the construction industry, on improving compliance with the Building Regulations, and on greater consumer protection. These are set out in Appendix 1 – Section 3. The reform measures implemented are similar to those being employed internationally in response to building defects.

As is evident from the detail provided in the appendix to this letter, the Irish Government has put in place wide-ranging supports aimed directly at those who have been affected by defects in housing. The Irish Government continues to support the homeowners affected, continues to strengthen the regulatory environment for construction products, building control and continues to work with the European Commission in respect of construction product harmonisation legislation to the benefit of all Irish and EU citizens.

I trust the above is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Hanney

Permanent Representative of Ireland to the EU