Dear Friends,

The European Construction Sector has a major role in the European economy, producing more than 10% of the EU25 total GDP and 50% of the Gross Fixed Capital Formation, and is a huge industrial employer.

European society in a global world is now confronted with a number of critical challenges such as enlargement, demographic change, ageing population and physical access, climate change, sustainability requirements - with an emphasis on energy. The Construction Sector must reinvent concepts, methodologies, processes, products and services. It must engage and promote significant research and technological development to contribute fully to the European society.

In 2004, the European Construction Technology Platform (ECTP) initiated this effort. It now has more than 600 members from all fields of the Construction Sector and stakeholders including end-users. It enjoys a massive commitment of its industrial members, and is supported by a network of 18 national platforms (NTPs) acting on a similar model.

Last year the ECTP presented its Vision for 2030. The ECTP High Level Group is now proud to present its Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) to achieve this Vision.

This SRA presents, for the first time ever, a broad consensus at European level on the main objectives and research areas that must be addressed and coordinated to turn this Vision into reality. The wide range of activities and impact of the Construction Sector on all aspects of European Society is reflected in this SRA. In parallel with the three main criteria for sustainability – Society, Environment and Economy, they are classified as follows:

- **Meeting Clients/User Requirements**: providing a healthy and comfortable habitat for all, promoting a new image of European cities, developing underground transport to free surface space, developing mobility and supply through efficient networks;
- **Becoming Sustainable**: reducing resources consumption (energy, materials, water), reducing the environmental impact of human activities, maintaining efficient transport and utility networks, enhancing our cultural heritage, improving safety and security;
- **Transforming the Construction Sector**: developing a knowledge-based, client driven construction process, supported by ICT, automation, high added value construction materials and making construction workplaces attractive.

ECTP is now working on scheduling priorities to be tackled during the next 5-10 years at:

- **European level**, by means of Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) and collaborative research projects. The ECTP is already working on two JTI proposals - Building Energy Efficiency and Underground Innovative Construction Technologies
- **At Multinational level**, through Eranet+ and Eureka. A Eureka cluster (Eurekabuild) is being prepared to promote research actions between several countries.
- **At National level**, by supporting actions taken by the National Technology Platforms.

We are looking forward to getting the support of all construction stakeholders with that of the European Commission, European Parliament and Members States to ensure success in this exciting work.

Yours faithfully,

Michel Cote
Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Bouygues Construction
Chairman of ECTP High Level Group