

MARCH 2009

Panama News changes with the New Year 2009 and the 9th edition: new presentation, more on the life of the association, technical and economic subjects. You can also connect on the website: www.panama-international.com which is online now. It is still on works and will be enriched in the following weeks.

**Please have a look and react !
b.fulton@panama-international.fr**



Life of the association

Members

We welcome 2 new members:

GSC Metal izolation (Turkey)

IPEX Group.

One resignation : Elastogran

We have also been informed of the changes in the Finish association, **Jaana Pullola**, the secretary General leaving the association, which will be represented as from now on by Jukka Hellman. We wish to thank Jaana for her long participation and support to our European actions and wish her all the best for her new missions.

Meetings

Since Edinburgh, 2 meetings on the creation of one big and new association including both EPPF and Panama International have been organised. We are now planning a meeting with all the members and potential members for June 2009. Place and dates are to be confirmed soon.

Easie

You all know from Newsletter n°7, that Panama International is a partner of The EASIE research project on sandwich panels. Panama International is leading the work package n°6 aimed to promote the project and the results in Europe for the next 3 years. Please have a look on the website www.easie.eu and on the 1st newsletter. Register and send the information to all the partners you know who can be interested by using sandwich panels! The more they connect to this site the better it is for our promotion of sandwich panels.

News on CPR

The Construction Product Directive is on revision to become a Regulation, which means that it will be presented for voting to the European Parliament. A project has been proposed by the Commission last year, and amendments have been produced by the parliament (305 !). Since February and until April, discussions have started between the rapporteur of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission to establish compromises : 15 of them are already been voted. The plenary session of April should confirm those votes.





The vote in the Parliament will take place in April. If it is positive, the text is approved, the council ratifies the regulation, which is promulgated in the various linguistic versions. If the vote is negative, another compromise is looked for. Yet with the EP elections in June, the works will be frozen after the session of April and the discussion on the text will not start again before the end of 2009 with a vote foreseen for 2010.

What are the actions of PI for this project? Panama International has followed

the actions of CEPMC, which's main mission is to "Ensure prompt implementation of the CPD/CPR".

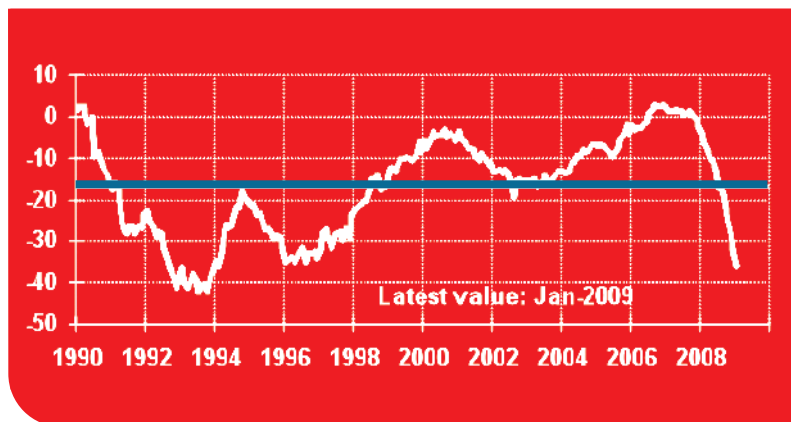
Their leading actions are to maintain the gains of the harmonized standards when they are appreciated, to speed up the finalisation, to reduce administrative burdens concerning new and innovative products, to avoid distortion of competition and trade barriers, to contribute to define efficient market surveillance. The project was studied by EPPF technical committee in 2008: the members confirmed that the overall

project was satisfying for the profession and corresponding to what they had requested those last years: keep the gains of the work achieved those last years, ease some administrative procedures, avoid distortion of competition. Yet we all should be aware that since this project is to be voted by the parliament, we enter a very difficult area where policies and politics of the different member states are to be considered as well as the technical issues. We have to wait now for the results of the vote.

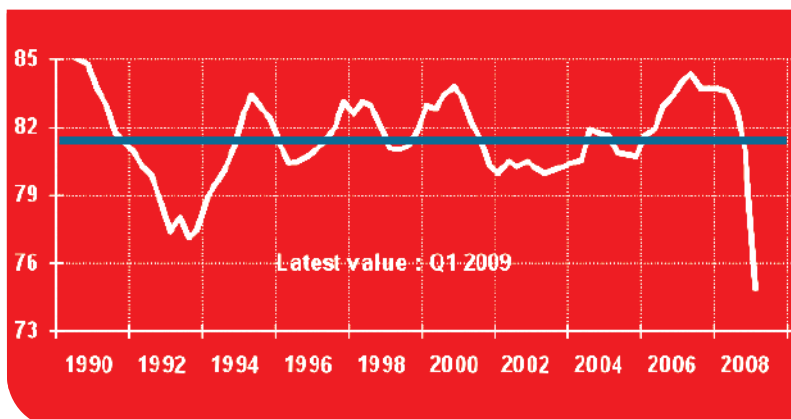
Facts and figures

EU 27 - Economic surveys

● EU 27 > Confidence levels in construction (balance of opinion)



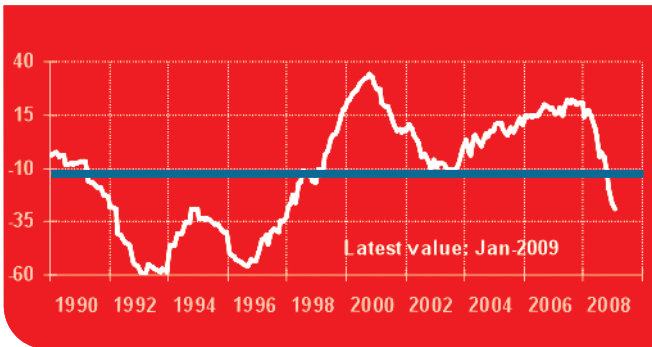
● EU 27 > Capacity utilisation in industry (in %)



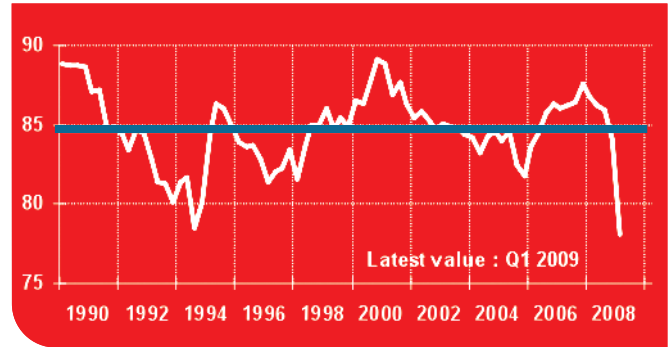
Source : Eurostat.

EU 27 - Economic surveys

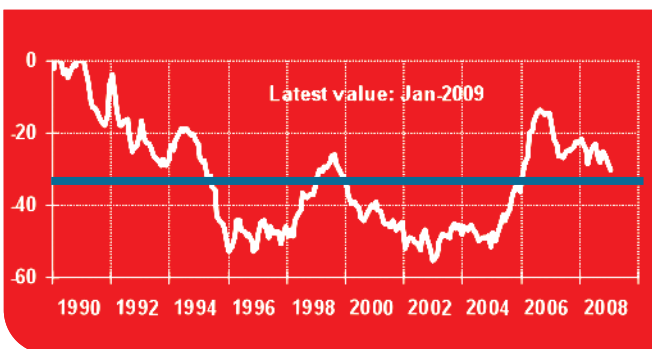
● France > Confidence levels in construction (balance of opinion)



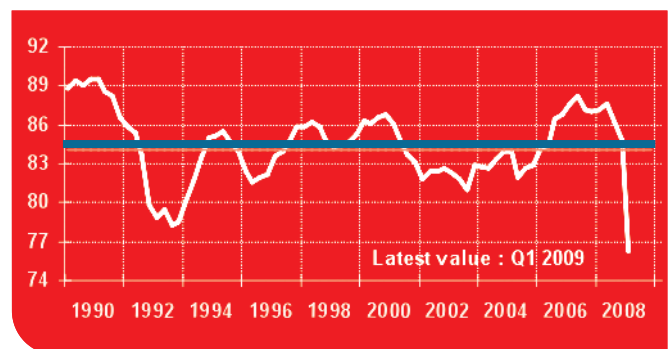
● France > Capacity utilisation in industry (in %)



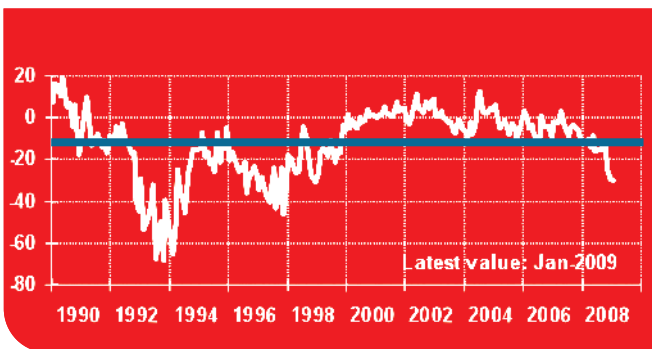
● Germany > Confidence levels in construction (balance of opinion)



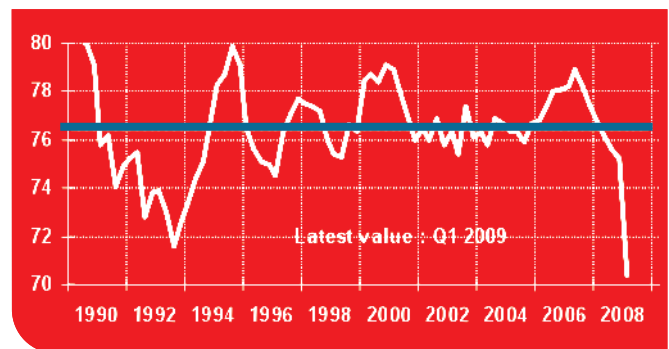
● Germany > Capacity utilisation in industry (in %)



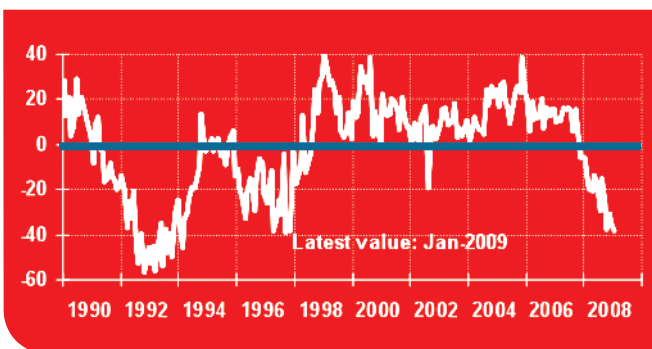
● Italy > Confidence levels in construction (balance of opinion)



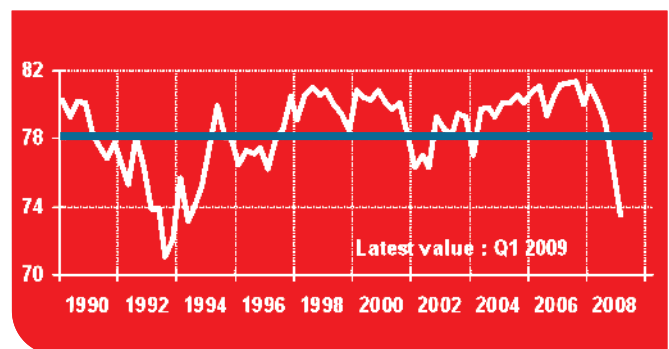
● Italy > Capacity utilisation in industry (in %)



● Spain > Confidence levels in construction (balance of opinion)



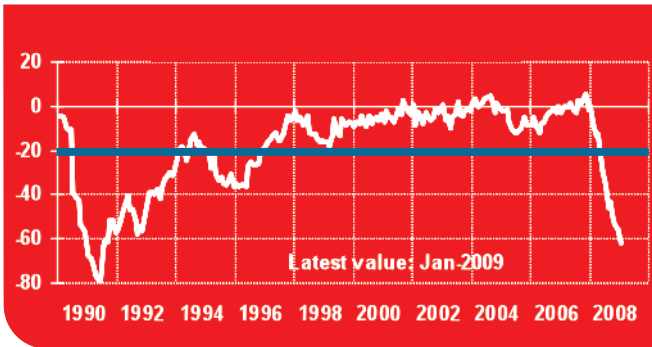
● Spain > Capacity utilisation in industry (in %)



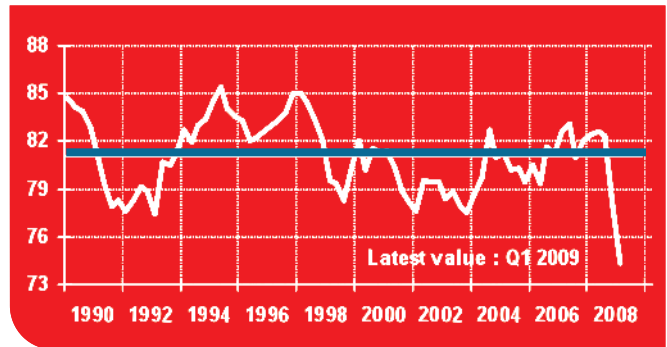
Source : Eurostat.

EU 27 - Economic surveys

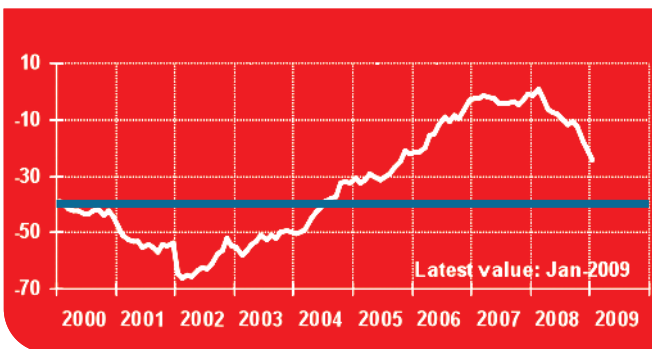
● **UK > Confidence levels in construction**
(balance of opinion)



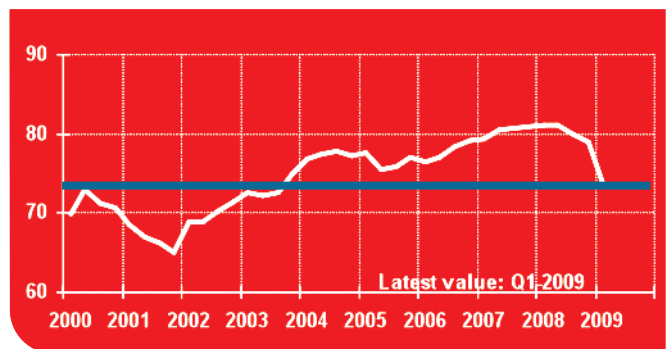
● **UK > Capacity utilisation in industry (in %)**



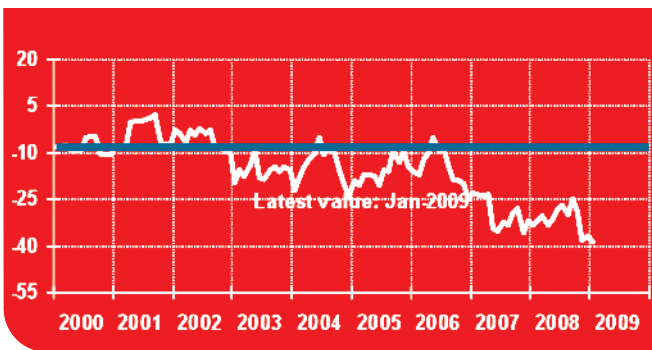
● **Poland > Confidence levels in construction**
(balance of opinion)



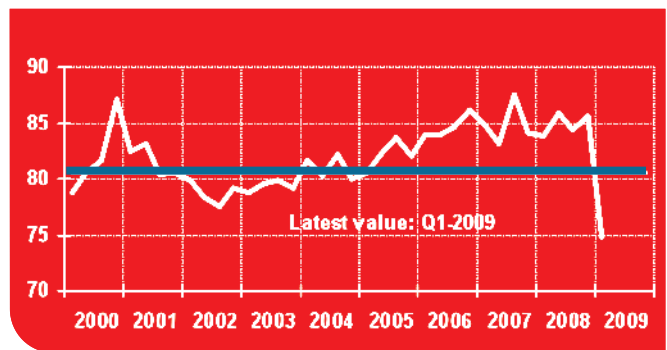
● **Poland > Capacity utilisation in industry (in %)**



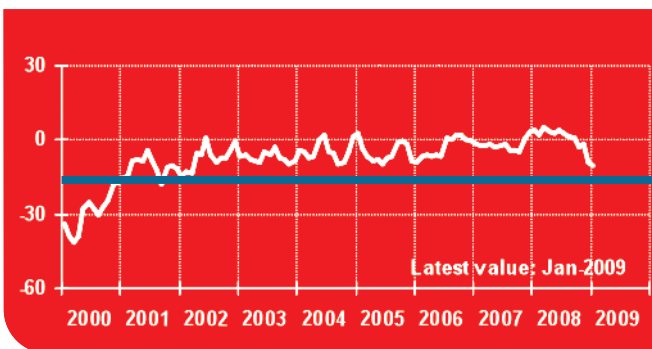
● **Hungary > Confidence levels in construction**
(balance of opinion)



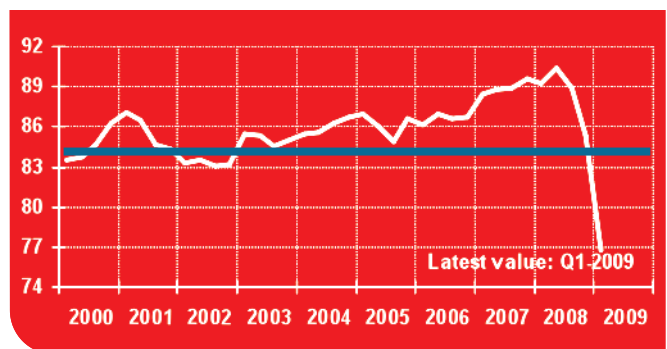
● **Hungary > Capacity utilisation in industry (in %)**



● **Czech Rep. > Confidence levels in construction**
(balance of opinion)



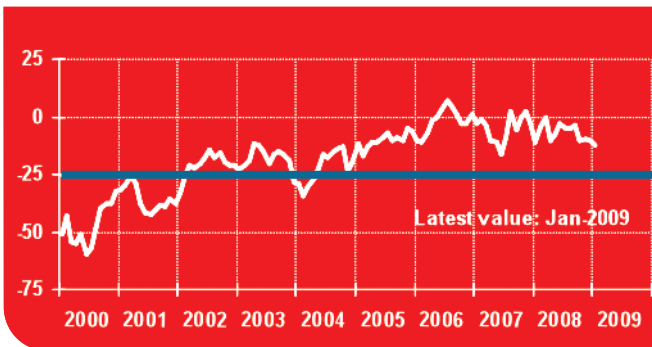
● **Czech Rep. > Capacity utilisation in industry (in %)**



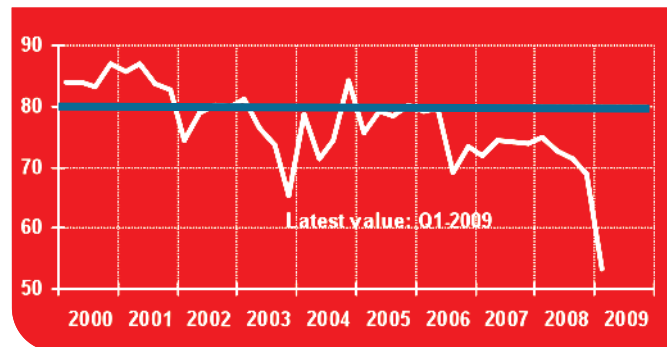
Source : Eurostat.

EU 27 - Economic surveys

● Slovakia > Confidence levels in construction (balance of opinion)



● Slovakia > Capacity utilisation in industry (in %)



Source : Eurostat.

EU 27 - Construction outlook

Construction % growth per year	2008	2009	2010
EU	-0.4%	-4.5%	-0.3%
France	-2.9%	-9.4%	-0.5%
Germany	0.6%	-3.3%	0.3%
UK	-1.4%	-8.1%	-0.7%
Spain	-8.8%	-10.1%	-4.3%
Italy	-1.7%	-2.6%	0.2%
Poland	16.0%	2.0%	2.2%
Slovakia	9.7%	0.4%	2.9%
Hungary	-6,0%	-2.9%	1.6%
Czech Republik	1,6%	-1.4%	1.2%

Next congress

Please note that the EPPF, EPAQ and Panama International annual congress will take place in **November in Helsinki**. The programme is being built up at the moment. I know that some of you have good ideas on the organisation of this congress: **please send us your suggestions of presentation or of organisation.**

b.fulton@panama-international.com

Participation of the members

We need your participation to our different actions: **Please send us photos of buildings** made up with your products with the rights to use them on our different web-sites, Panama International and EASIE ones. **Please send us ideas of presentations for the next congress.**

> Within the present economic environment, T. Suin and B. Fulton remain at your disposal: please contact us if needed.

Please react to the newsletter and to the website: your comments are welcome!