



**Africa-Europe BioClimatic buildings for
XXI century**

PARTICIPATION AT COP 26 (2021)



ABC 21 project

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1. Introduction

Decarbonising buildings and construction materials is essential for achieving climate neutrality in Europe and Africa. Discussions and debates on how to approach this issue the techniques, solutions, and policies to support the transitions are paving the way into a new carbon-free reality. In this context, the ABC 21 project participated in sessions and events in the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26) framework to debate pathways and present our most recent findings that may support the decarbonisation of buildings and materials in construction.

The first event was an online session as a part of the EU Side event platform. We presented our work related to local building materials and discussed the implication of policies for decarbonising buildings and promoting energy efficiency. The second event was held at the French Pavilion in Glasgow. Our project partners recorded videos briefing explaining the use of local and geo-bio-based construction materials and their potentials to contribute to the building sector decarbonisation.

2. EU Side Event: Online session about building decarbonisation

On Friday, November 5th, 2021, ⌚15h30 CET, Prof. Asmae Kahldoun and Prof. Lorenzo Pagliani participated in a joint online session as a part of the EU side events of COP 26. The title was "Decarbonising Buildings: the importance of energy efficiency and low-carbon construction materials" and is a cooperation with VELUX and EuroACE.

The goal of this one-hour online seminar was to highlight the key role that building decarbonisation plays in achieving climate neutrality. The event presented and debated solutions to achieve the decarbonisation of buildings, which today is responsible for 39% of global emissions. Putting energy efficiency first will cost-effectively reduce energy demand while using low-carbon construction materials will drastically cut the buildings' embodied emissions.



Figure 1: Image displayed on media channels to publicise the event

This online session was organised in cooperation with the two organisations abovementioned, the submitted proposal competed with many others and was selected due to its relevance for climate crisis mitigation. A recording of the session is available on YouTube through the link <https://youtu.be/B4yDVXBMF1E>



Figure 2: Print-screen of the recording on YouTube - <https://youtu.be/B4yDVXBMF1E>

2.2 Agenda & Speakers

- Decarbonising buildings: IEA data and analysis– by Brian Motherway, Head of Energy Efficiency at IEA (5 min)
- Ambitions to reduce CO2 in buildings and supply chains – by Ingrid Reumert, VP External Relations, and sustainability at VELUX (10 min)
- How to design using natural solutions – by Prof. Lorenzo Pagliano from Politecnico di Milano and Prof. Asmae Khaldun, from Al Akhawayn University in Morocco (10 min)
- Panel debate on policy – how to develop policies and legislation that reduce emissions from buildings during their entire lifetime? (10 min)
- Panel debate on energy efficiency – how can renovation fulfil the 'Net-Zero Scenario': increasing the renovate rate to 2.5%? (10 min)
- Closing word and perspectives by Brian Motherway IEA (5 min)

Participation of ABC 21 partners

2.3 Dissemination and Outcomes

Dissemination and communication activities were conducted in collaboration with VELUX and EuroACE, on organisations' websites, social media, and contact networks. Table 1 summarises the analytical obtained counting only ABC 21 project channels.

Table 1: EU Side Event dissemination numbers

Channel	Link	Numbers
Website posts	https://www.abc21.eu/abc-21-cop26-eu-side-event-decarbonising-buildings/	30 accesses
Twitter	https://twitter.com/ABC21_h2020/status/1456184145172910081?s=20&t=FVDLg_ZcPmzcygP9XTOAgg	899 impressions
LinkedIn	https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6861948202568990720	141 impressions
YouTube	https://youtu.be/B4yDVXBMF1E	171 visualisations
Live stream Attendees	Number of attendees during live stream	35 simultaneous

The numbers achieved are rather good since there were several events related to energy efficiency and buildings in COP 26, thus splitting the target audience. Feedback received from organising partners VELUX and EuroACE, as well as attendees, were positive – proposing a subsequent webinar to discuss further these issues and even a proposition of a joint publication on the subject of decarbonising buildings and their materials.

3. French Pavilion – Physical & Online session

On Thursday, November 11th 2021 @13h30CET took place a dedicated session in the French Pavilion about the building sector decarbonisation, organised by PEEB. The event happened physically at COP 26 in Glasgow and streamed on YouTube with free access. The event was held in French with English subtitles whenever it was available.

In this session, Prof. Asmae Khaldoun from Al Akhawayn University in Morocco presented her work regarding local building materials and techniques and how they support the building sector decarbonisation. Ernest Dione from Direction de l'Environnement et des Etablissements Classés (DEEC) also contributed sharing the initiatives in Senegal regarding local materials and techniques.

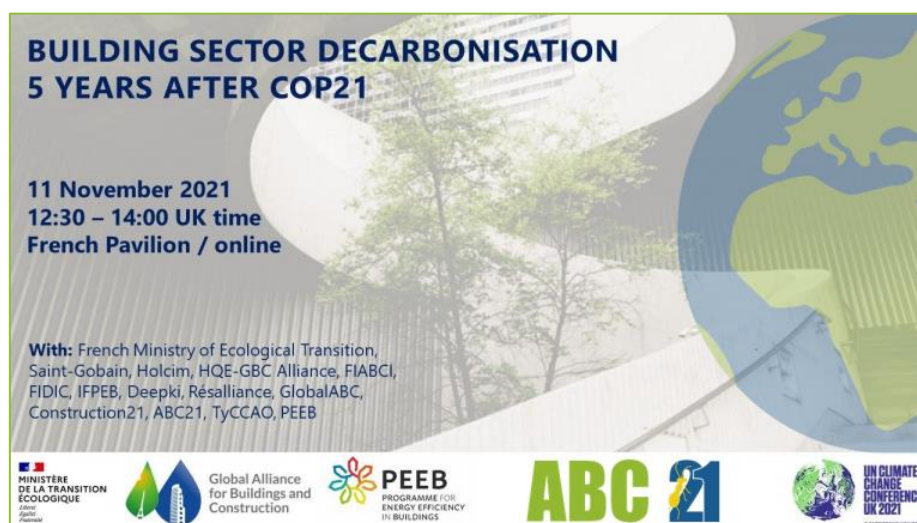
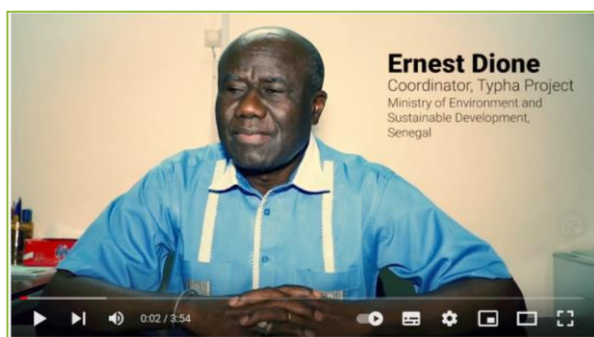


Figure 3: Dissemination on media channels to publicise the event

The live stream was made through the Ministère de la Transition écologique channel on YouTube, and the recording is available at this link: <https://youtu.be/zAl3F1t0MtY?t=13439>. Unfortunately, we did not receive any information concerning the number of watchers during the live stream. ABC 21 has also posted the 3-min contributions of Prof. Asmae Khaldoun and Ernest Dione on our dedicated YouTube channel to facilitate the dissemination through other media:



<https://youtu.be/F6UYz-e5Zqs>



<https://youtu.be/KQp7q57352Y>

Figure 4 Print-screen of the recording on YouTube

3.2 Agenda & Speakers

Format: 1h30, interventions both in presence at the French Pavilion or pre-recorded, in-person audience at the pavilion and open to the public via live stream.

- **Opening and introduction** | Moderator: Mariana Castano Cano | Introduction of the topic and the programme
- **Panel 1: Neutralité carbone: responsabilité et engagement des entreprises du secteur bâtiment | 20 min | with participation of:**
 - Benoit Bazin, CEO Saint-Gobain
 - Deputy President, HQE-GBC
 - International VP, FIABCI
 - IFPEB (Think doTank, CUBE)
 - Christian Brodhag, President, Construction21
- **Panel 2: Matériaux bas carbone: l'autre face de la réduction des émissions du secteur bâtiment | 20 min | with participation of:**
 - Jérémy Bourgault, Programme for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (PEEB AFD)
 - Prof. Asmae Khaldoun from Al Akhawayn University in Morocco: Technical perspective + case studies: how could innovative low-carbon materials be implemented?
 - Ernest Dione, DEEC Senegal: Initiatives in the context of Senegal + Typha
 - Régis Meyer, MTE France: RE2020
- **Panel 3: "Adaptation, au-delà du carbone" | 20 min | with participation of:**
 - Karim Sélouane, CEO Résalliance
 - Régis Meyer, MTE France & GlobalABC
 - Mike Enskat, Head of Energy, Water, Mobility GIZ
- **Session closure | 5 min**

ABC 21 partners

3.3 Dissemination and Outcomes

Dissemination and communication activities were conducted in collaboration with PEEB and the French ministry, both session organisers. Channels used were the organisations' websites, social media, and networks. Table 1 summarises the analytical obtained counting only ABC 21 project channels.

Table 2: French Pavilion dissemination numbers

Channel	Link	Numbers
Website posts	https://www.abc21.eu/cop26-session-on-decarbination-of-the-building-sector/	31 accesses

Twitter	https://twitter.com/ABC21_h2020/status/1458012504681074692?s=20&t=FVDLg_ZcPmzcygP9XTOAagg	1001 impressions
LinkedIn	https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6863765921593356290	69 impressions
YouTube	https://youtu.be/zAl3F1t0MtY?t=13439	856 visualisations
On-site Attendees	Number of spectators at French Pavilion in Glasgow	45 attendees
Live stream Attendees	Number of attendees during live stream	21 attendees

The posts and communication activities were quite successful, especially on Twitter – one of the main dissemination channels used by COP organisers and attendees. Since the event was in French, we reached a broader and different audience, overcoming language barriers in most West-African countries. We have received incredibly positive feedback concerning this, and thus for future events, the ABC 21 project will also organise dedicated events in English and French.