HIAG

Position Paper on the Circular Economy

In order to achieve international climate targets, the enormous demand for energy and resources in the construction industry must be reduced. To this end, the transition from a linear to a circular economy is essential. Circular construction aims to reduce grey greenhouse gas emissions and the use of new primary resources. The responsible transformation to a circular construction industry represents a major challenge. HIAG analysed the various aspects of the circular economy in a comprehensive and structured evaluation phase and assessed them in relation to its own business activities. Six strategic principles were developed and enshrined in the 'Sustainable Construction Manifesto'. These principles are as follows:

1. **Further development of existing buildings:** In principle, existing buildings should remain in use as part of development projects. This requires that existing buildings can be used in a sustainable and economically efficient manner.
2. **Sufficiency:** Another priority is to ensure that new buildings are constructed in a resource-efficient manner. This includes, in particular, efficient load-bearing structures, adequate use of space with an economically efficient type of use, targeted building technology and durable building materials. This is intended to promote the quality and longevity of the developed properties.
3. **Flexibility of use:** Flexibility with regard to changes in use or changing usage requirements should be ensured by ensuring suitability for third-party use.
4. **Choice of materials:** Recycled building materials and renewable raw materials are to be used in preference when sourcing materials. The use of reused components is not currently a priority for HIAG due to the unfavourable cost-benefit ratio and the considerable logistical challenges involved. The same applies to the inventory of materials used in construction, for example in the form of building passports.
5. **Component separation:** Components should be installed in accordance with Minergie-ECO specifications so that they can be separated by type during demolition and reused or recycled as completely as possible.
6. **Demolition and reuse:** A high recycling rate is taken into account when awarding demolition projects. This promotes reuse and saves disposal costs.

This document is a translation of the original German version. In the event of any conflict, the German version shall prevail.

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