Construction Sector Committee

Position Paper

Adoption of EUROCODES

EUROCHAM Malaysia serves as the amplified voice of European Business in Malaysia. It is the independent chamber of commerce representing European companies across sectors — providing advocacy, access, and intelligence to drive competitive advantage.

The EUROCHAM Malaysia Construction Sector Committee brings together leading industry players across the construction value chain, serves as a collective platform for members to exchange expertise, address industry challenges, and engage with stakeholders on key priorities.

Through industry advocacy and collaboration, the Committee aims to advance policy discussions and promote the adoption of international best practices, sustainable solutions, and modern construction methods to enhance the productivity, resilience, and competitiveness of Malaysia's construction sector.

Last Revision: 18th August 2026

DRAFT — FOR COMMITTEE REVIEW ONLY. This document is an internal working draft prepared for the EUROCHAM Malaysia Construction Sector Committee. It has not been adopted by the Committee, has not been reviewed by the EUROCHAM Secretariat, and is not authorised for circulation outside the Committee.

Executive Summary

EUROCHAM Malaysia's Construction Sector Committee supports the progressive adoption and consistent implementation of Eurocodes, as reflected in relevant Malaysian Standards (MS EN), as the preferred structural design framework in Malaysia. While Malaysia has already made significant progress in adopting Eurocodes, the continued parallel use of legacy British Standards (BS), together with differences in regulatory, approval and procurement practices, can create uncertainty, duplication and additional costs for businesses.

From an industry perspective, the priority is to provide greater clarity and consistency in the application of the existing Eurocode/MS EN framework. A clear transition pathway would enable businesses to plan investment in engineering capabilities, software and training with greater confidence, while clearer recognition in relevant approval and procurement processes would provide stronger market signals for industry to transition. The needs of SMEs should also be considered to ensure that the transition remains practical and proportionate.

Against this background, EUROCHAM proposes consideration of a clear and phased transition roadmap, supported by greater consistency in regulatory and procurement recognition, continued development and maintenance of relevant Malaysian National Annexes, and appropriate industry capacity-building. EUROCHAM and interested member companies are prepared to contribute industry perspectives and relevant international experience through structured dialogue with the relevant stakeholders, with the objective of supporting a predictable and practical transition that strengthens Malaysia's construction sector competitiveness and resilience.

Unit 33-08, Menara EcoWorld, Bukit Bintang City Centre, No. 2, Jalan Hang Tuah, 55100 Kuala Lumpur
Tel +603-8744 2320 · enquiry@eurocham.com.my · www.eurocham.my

Relevance and Strategic Value to Malaysia

Adopting Eurocodes as the primary framework offers critical strategic advantages for Malaysia's economic and infrastructural development:

- **Regulatory certainty.**

A clearer national direction would reduce uncertainty over which structural design standards are recognised for different project types and approval processes.

- **Productivity and cost efficiency.**

Reducing the need to maintain parallel design systems can help limit duplicated software, training and technical processes, particularly for firms operating across multiple projects or jurisdictions.

- **Consistency in project approvals.**

More consistent recognition of Eurocode/MS EN-compliant designs can reduce avoidable technical and administrative friction between project proponents, consultants and approving authorities.

- **Industry competitiveness.**

A predictable standards framework can support Malaysian engineering firms in building capability around a single, internationally recognised system while reducing fragmentation in the market.

- **International business integration.**

Greater alignment with internationally recognised structural design practices can reduce technical and compliance friction for international investors and engineering firms operating in Malaysia.

- **Resilience and long-term infrastructure quality.**

Maintaining a current and consistently implemented structural design framework supports Malaysia's broader objectives for safe, resilient and sustainable infrastructure.

Unit 33-08, Menara EcoWorld, Bukit Bintang City Centre, No. 2, Jalan Hang Tuah, 55100 Kuala Lumpur
Tel +603-8744 2320 · enquiry@eurocham.com.my · www.eurocham.my

Problem Statement

Eurocodes provide an internationally recognised framework for structural design and have been adopted in Malaysia through relevant MS EN standards. The issue facing the industry is therefore not whether Malaysia has a Eurocode framework, but how consistently that framework is recognised and implemented across regulation, procurement and professional practice.

At present, industry participants may encounter situations in which Eurocode/MS EN-based designs coexist with legacy BS-based requirements. Where both systems remain accepted, firms have limited commercial incentive to invest in a full transition, particularly when competitors continue to operate using legacy standards.

A more predictable implementation framework would allow businesses to plan investment in engineering capability, software, training and project delivery with greater confidence.

The industry reflects four main issues:

- **Regulatory and approval inconsistency**

Although Eurocodes have been adopted through relevant Malaysian Standards, related building regulations and approval practices may not consistently provide clear recognition of Eurocode-based designs. This can create uncertainty for consultants and project proponents.

- **Procurement signals remain mixed**

Where public procurement specifications continue to accept different design standards without a clear preference or transition direction, market participants have limited incentive to invest in full Eurocode capability.

- **Parallel standards and transition costs**

Maintaining capability across two design systems can require additional software, training and technical resources. The impact is likely to be greater for smaller firms with limited resources.

- **Implementation guidance and National Annexes**

The effective use of Eurocodes depends on appropriate Malaysian National Annexes and clear guidance on their application. Continued review and maintenance are therefore important to implementation certainty.

- **Lack of a clear transition roadmap**

Without a defined national direction, businesses may delay investment in training and software migration because they cannot anticipate when and where Eurocode/MS EN requirements will become the prevailing standard.

Unit 33-08, Menara EcoWorld, Bukit Bintang City Centre, No. 2, Jalan Hang Tuah, 55100 Kuala Lumpur
Tel +603-8744 2320 · enquiry@eurocham.com.my · www.eurocham.my

EUROCHAM Policy Recommendation

To resolve these challenges and streamline the transition, the EUROCHAM Construction Sector Committee calls on the Malaysian Government to:

1. **Establish a clear, phased transition roadmap**

A national roadmap for the progressive transition towards Eurocode/MS EN-based structural design would provide greater visibility for industry and support a more coordinated transition.

The roadmap should distinguish between relevant project categories and take account of industry readiness, SME impact and the availability of supporting technical guidance. Specific timelines should be developed through consultation with relevant authorities and industry rather than prescribed solely by industry.

2. **Strengthen regulatory and procurement recognition**

Relevant public procurement specifications should progressively incorporate clear Eurocode/MS EN requirements or preferences, where appropriate to the project.

EUROCHAM considers that it would be useful for the public sector to also review related building approval requirements to ensure that Eurocode-compliant designs are consistently recognised by relevant approving authorities.

3. **Continue the development and maintenance of Malaysian National Annexes**

Continued completion, review and maintenance of the Malaysian National Annexes, together with practical guidance where interpretation or implementation issues arise, would help strengthen confidence in the local application of Eurocodes.

4. **Support a practical industry transition**

The transition could be supported by proportionate capacity-building measures, including awareness, professional development and training opportunities. Particular consideration should be given to SMEs and firms that may face higher costs in upgrading software, retraining personnel and developing Eurocode capability.

Unit 33-08, Menara EcoWorld, Bukit Bintang City Centre, No. 2, Jalan Hang Tuah, 55100 Kuala Lumpur
Tel +603-8744 2320 · enquiry@eurocham.com.my · www.eurocham.my

Conclusion and Next Steps

Malaysia has already established an important foundation for Eurocode adoption through relevant Malaysian Standards. The priority now is to close the implementation gap and provide businesses with a clearer and more consistent framework for the transition.

EUROCHAM proposes a structured technical and policy dialogue involving relevant public agencies, Standards Malaysia, CIDB, KPKT, professional bodies, local authorities and industry representatives. Such a dialogue could help identify the principal implementation barriers, clarify the current status of regulatory and procurement recognition, and develop a practical transition roadmap.

EUROCHAM and its members are prepared to contribute industry perspectives and relevant international experience to this dialogue. The objective is not an abrupt replacement of existing practices, but a predictable and proportionate transition that strengthens regulatory certainty, productivity and the competitiveness of Malaysia's construction sector.

Scope and Governance Note

This position paper is developed from industry input and reflects broader sector considerations rather than the commercial position of any individual member company.

EUROCHAM's role is to facilitate dialogue between European businesses and Malaysian stakeholders and to advocate for policy outcomes that support safety, quality, transparency, fair competition and efficient construction delivery.

The paper does not prescribe specific technical standards, certification methodologies, digital architectures or regulatory instruments. Any future technical or regulatory requirements should be developed and assessed by the relevant authorities, standards and conformity-assessment bodies and industry stakeholders through appropriate consultation.

The recommendations focus on strengthening verification, traceability, procurement considerations, digitalisation and industry-government collaboration, while recognising that any future regulatory or technical requirements would require appropriate assessment of proportionality, implementation costs and industry readiness.

Unit 33-08, Menara EcoWorld, Bukit Bintang City Centre, No. 2, Jalan Hang Tuah, 55100 Kuala Lumpur
Tel +603-8744 2320 · enquiry@eurocham.com.my · www.eurocham.my

Annex A - Implementation and Enforcement Diagnosis

The following observations identify the principal factors that can contribute to continued parallel use of Eurocodes and legacy BS-based practices. They are intended to support policy discussion and should be validated with the relevant technical authorities.

Procurement neutrality

Where public procurement specifications do not provide a clear direction on Eurocode/MS EN-based design, the market may continue to default to established practices.

Parallel system tolerance

Where multiple design systems remain acceptable, individual consulting firms may have limited commercial incentive to invest in a full transition if competitors continue to use legacy standards.

National Annex and guidance gaps

Where relevant Malaysian National Annexes or practical guidance require further development or clarification, firms may face uncertainty in applying the standards consistently.

Professional and industry capability

The transition requires sufficient access to training and practical experience so that engineers and firms can apply Eurocodes effectively in project environments.

Education-to-practice transition

Where graduates are trained in Eurocodes but enter workplaces that continue to use legacy standards, there can be a gap between formal education and workplace practice.

Unit 33-08, Menara EcoWorld, Bukit Bintang City Centre, No. 2, Jalan Hang Tuah, 55100 Kuala Lumpur
Tel +603-8744 2320 · enquiry@eurocham.com.my · www.eurocham.my

Annex B – International Experience

International experience can provide useful reference points, while recognising that Malaysia's regulatory and institutional context is different.

United Kingdom. The transition from BS-based structural standards to European standards was supported by changes in procurement and a defined transition period, providing a useful example of how regulatory and market signals can reinforce one another.

Ireland. The transition was supported by National Annexes, procurement guidance and professional training pathways, illustrating the importance of technical guidance and industry capability alongside standards adoption.

Singapore. Singapore has maintained a parallel standards environment while using procurement and regulatory mechanisms to strengthen the use of internationally recognised structural standards. This provides a relevant regional example of how market and regulatory signals can support transition.

The common lesson is that standards transition is more effective when regulatory recognition, procurement requirements, technical guidance and industry preparation move in a coordinated manner.

Unit 33-08, Menara EcoWorld, Bukit Bintang City Centre, No. 2, Jalan Hang Tuah, 55100 Kuala Lumpur
Tel +603-8744 2320 · enquiry@eurocham.com.my · www.eurocham.my