

Citizenship & Sustainability

SUSTAINING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, BESIX GROUP WORKED HARD TO MAINTAIN THE CONTINUITY OF ITS BUSINESS AND DELIVER THE SAME LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE TO ITS CLIENTS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME, PROVIDING A SAFE WORK ENVIRONMENT FOR ITS TEAMS, AND ADAPTING TO MAJOR CHANGES. LIKE MANY MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES, BESIX GROUP IMPLEMENTED SOLUTIONS TO SECURE ITS SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES AND ITS OPERATIONS THROUGH THE YEAR. SHORT-TERM ACTIONS WERE QUICKLY PUT IN PLACE BOTH TO PROTECT LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS, AND TO ENSURE PROJECT CONTINUITY.



WORKERS' QUARTERS, DUBAI, UAE

BESIX'S PEOPLE-CENTRIC APPROACH

BESIX Group respects and supports the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The implementation of the International Framework Agreement (IFA) on fair labour standards demonstrates its continued willingness to secure the welfare of workers in the Middle East and in other continents such as Africa, where the Group is also active.

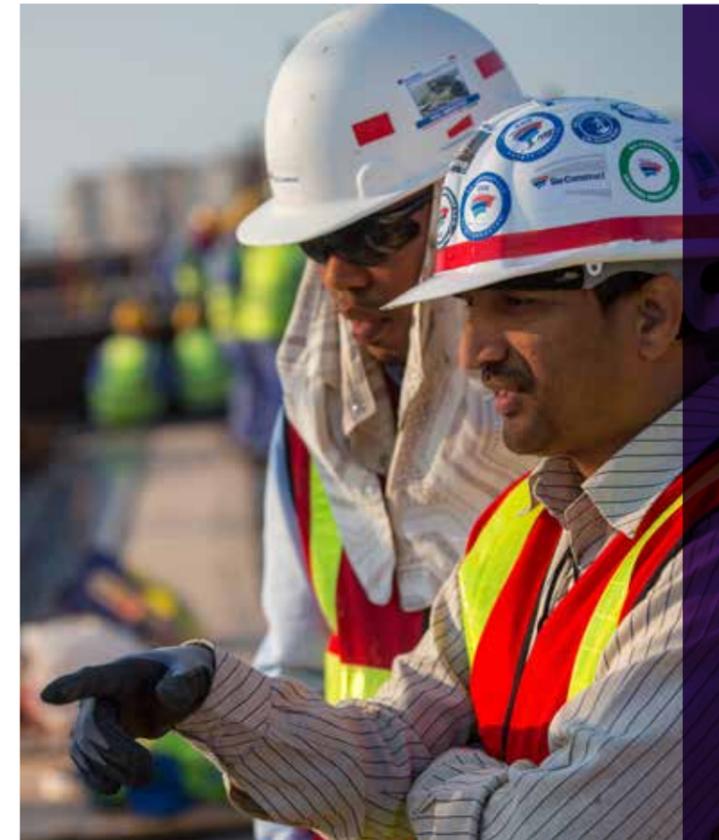
BESIX participated in the National Baseline Assessment on Business and Human Rights, commissioned by the Belgian Federal Institute for Sustainable Development and the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, which charted the progress made by the Belgian companies that were assessed.

The Group also reported to Business & Human Rights Resource Centre to outline its actions in preventing the spread of Covid-19 among its migrant workforce, as well as in the management of infected workers. BESIX made considerable efforts to put in place the preventive health measures necessary to ensure work continuity in a safe environment for its teams.

In the pandemic context, all possible precautionary measures were taken with the aim of maintaining business continuity and to remaining present on project sites. Awareness campaigns, dedicated helpdesk and communication lines, as well as operational toolkits have all offered valuable support to teams since the start of the pandemic. While the digitalisation of communication methods has been accelerated to provide teams with the necessary means to work from home and to communicate remotely with their colleagues.

BESIX'S PLANET AMBITION: A LOW-CARBON FUTURE

Despite the challenges it brought, the pandemic did not stop BESIX Group in its fight against climate change. More than ever, the Group wants to contribute actively to the transition to a low-carbon society. Due to the pandemic, the Group's climate ambitions described in 2019 have been refocused primarily on keeping in line with the COP21 CO₂ targets.



MEMBERSHIPS

- // United Nations Global Compact since 2016 (worldwide)
- // The Shift since 2016 (Belgium)
- // Belgian Alliance for Climate Action since 2020 (Belgium)
- // Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry 'Sustainability Network' (United Arab Emirates)
- // Green Deal Civil Engineering 2.0 (The Netherlands)
- // Green Deal Circular Construction (Belgium)
- // Green Deal Circular Procurement (Belgium)
- // Brussels Ecobuild cluster (Belgium)
- // European International Contractors, Corporate Responsibility work group (Europe)
- // Fédération Belge des Fondations Philanthropiques (Belgium)

In this field, the CO₂ performance ladder that is used in tender processes in the Netherlands was introduced in 2019 by the Belgian federal and regional governments. Since then, the Belgian authorities have been experimenting with the CO₂ performance ladder for their calls for tender in a 3-year trial period. BESIX strongly supports this, and is notably an initiative taker, along with the Association of Belgian Civil Engineering Entrepreneurs (ADEB-VBA), and a member of the steering committee.

The Group is also a member of the Belgian Alliance for Climate Action, initiated by The Shift and WWF Belgium. The objective of this community is that members align their activities with the Paris Agreement on climate change. In addition to that, BESIX Group will commit to Science-Based Targets initiatives by the end of 2021.

BESIX'S ACTIONS TO IMPROVE SUSTAINABLE PERFORMANCE

BESIX Group is involved in innovative initiatives that minimise CO₂ and energy impact of construction projects. The Group advises clients and plays a key role in the building of passive or green certified projects. Some examples include: the BNP Paribas headquarters in Brussels (Belgium), which is rated BREEAM Excellent; the Quatuor buildings, also in Brussels, which are rated BREEAM Outstanding; the first energy-neutral tunnel on the A16 highway in Rotterdam (The

Netherlands); the Mohamed VI Tower in Rabat (Morocco), which is rated LEED Gold and HQE; and the World Expo 2020 infrastructure works in Dubai (UAE), which are rated CEEQUAL Excellent.

BESIX's engineering teams are equally skilled and empowered to develop sustainable engineering solutions. Most of these sustainable solutions were originally initiated via the Group's internal innovation drive. BESIX encourages an entrepreneurial, innovative mindset among its staff members, both to keep up with the fast changes in the industry and to develop new, creative and ecologically conscious solutions. Examples of these include: the development of smart building technologies to reduce and optimise energy consumption; the development of applied research tracks in partnership with universities to reduce carbon footprint; research in the field of recycled aggregates; the development of sustainable site installations on construction sites, with optimal insulation and low energy consumption; the use of material passports that follow the life cycle of materials and their impact on the environment; the installation of moss walls to fight against air pollution; and the use of 3D concrete printing solutions to optimise waste reduction and reduce the CO₂ footprint.

2020 WAS A TRANSITION YEAR IN OUR CITIZENSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY AMBITIONS. BESIDES KEEPING ACTIVITIES GOING, MAINTAINING HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT AS TOP PRIORITIES WAS CRUCIAL TO BESIX. //

FRÉDÉRIC DE SCHREVEL, GROUP CITIZENSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER, BESIX GROUP



KEY EVENTS IN 2020 //

- // BESIX joined the Belgian Alliance for Climate Action among the early signatories
- // BESIX is one of the initiative takers and a member of the steering committee for the introduction and testing of the CO₂ performance ladder in tenders on the Belgian public market
- // BESIX was awarded a silver medal by EcoVadis, the world's largest and most trusted provider of business sustainability ratings
- // BESIX carried out 13 green-rated projects in 2019-2020



MOSS WALLS FIGHT AGAINST AIR POLLUTION

BESIX uses Building Information Management (BIM) and data management to optimise the design and the execution phases. This allows the Group to proactively minimise risks as it promotes information exchange and data sharing between project stakeholders. It also intends to expand its expertise in wastewater and waste treatment from the Middle East to Africa to provide drinking water for local populations in these regions. Furthermore, the Group also considers waste to be an innovative and sustainable solution and is building various energy-from-waste facilities, such as refuse-derived fuel plants. This solution, originating from waste treatment, offers an alternative energy source.

BESIX'S SUSTAINABLE STRATEGY ALIGNED WITH SDGs AMBITION

BESIX Group, as an active member of the United Nations Global Compact pact, supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It works with SDGs, considering them as a guiding compass, while focusing on selected goals where the Group can have the most impact. It communicates its sustainability progress every year.

STRONGER TOGETHER THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

The world will not be sustainable without real, efficient partnerships. The Group has built strong relationships with experts from various sectors: with international institutions and networks (UNGC, EIC, The Shift, ADEB-VBA), universities, companies, and start-ups.

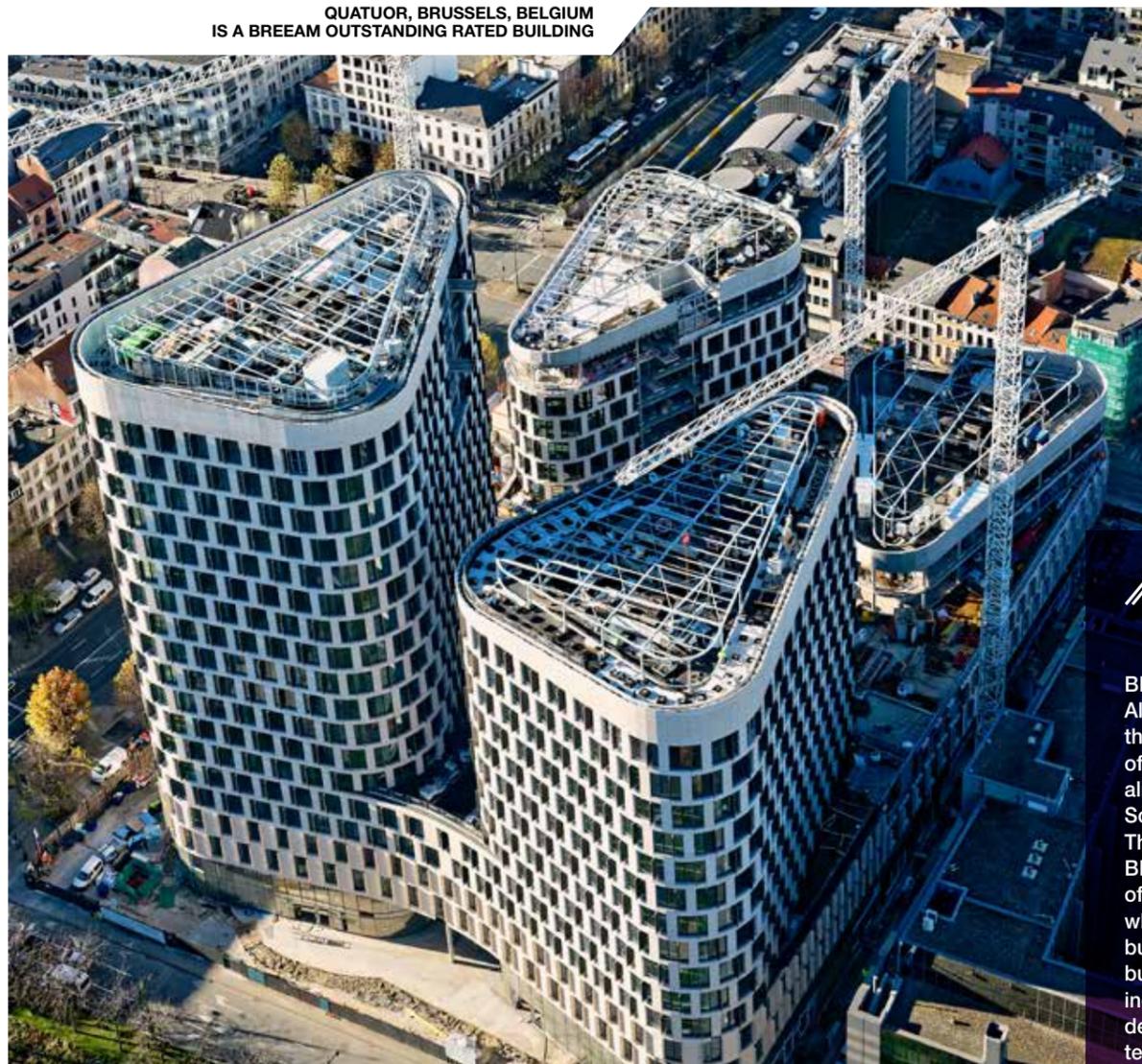
It remains aware of its impact on its supply chain. Besides its General Code of Conduct and Procurement Code of Conduct, BESIX has also developed a tool to evaluate its main subcontractors and suppliers. The objective is to build transparent and trustful partnerships with them in terms of ethics, environment and innovation.

UPGRADING RISK MANAGEMENT

The Group also focuses on risks and opportunities to manage operations through the slogan 'Choose better, Prepare better, Execute better'. BESIX chooses a Citizenship & Sustainability approach that is integrated in its daily activities and achievements in tender, procurement, contract and insurance management. These are in line with relevant ISO and other guidance and standards.



QUATUOR, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM IS A BREEAM OUTSTANDING RATED BUILDING



Belgian Alliance for Climate Action

// Belgian Alliance for Climate Action

BESIX Group joined the 'Belgian Alliance for Climate Action' at the end of 2020. The objective of the signatory members is to align their activities with the Science Based Targets (SBT). This initiative complements BESIX's actions in the field of construction, through which it aims to design and build increasingly sustainable buildings and infrastructures, including through the development and the use of new technologies and innovative materials.

IN A NUTSHELL

The pandemic allowed the Group to specifically focus on two critical pillars. First, BESIX focused on minimising negative impacts and developing new, positive opportunities in people management. Efforts were made notably towards the digitalisation of work and towards healthy and safe workplaces. Alongside this, BESIX focused on its planet ambitions, with the integration of CO₂ performance in tender activities and participation in a dedicated climate action network.

Sustainability remained a priority for BESIX Group's clients during this pandemic. The Group is proud of all its integrated Citizenship & Sustainability initiatives and achievements that are illustrated through this activity report.

Later this year, the fifth edition of the BESIX Group Citizenship & Sustainability report, covering the years 2019 and 2020, will give more information in line with the UN Global Compact and SDG guidelines: the Group's mission, vision and objectives, as well as its continuous engagement and achievements in environment protection, human rights, worker welfare, anti-corruption and contributions to local communities.

ACTIVITIES AND SUPPLY CHAINS WERE DISRUPTED IN 2020. EVALUATING OUR SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE AND PREVENTING RISKS FOR OUR TEAMS AND OUR CLIENTS IS MORE THAN EVER A NEED AND A CHALLENGE. //

PIERRE SIRONVAL, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, BESIX GROUP

