



To
Executive First Vice-President Frans Timmermans
Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson
Director-General Mauro Petriccione
Director-General Ditte Juul Jørgensen

Brussels, 30 November 2021

MEPs call for an ambitious revision of the EPBD

Distinguished Vice-President, distinguished Commissioner,

We are contacting you today as concerned Members of the European Parliament who have been active in the area of the Energy Performance of Buildings. As you know, the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) will be essential in ensuring the realisation of the European Green Deal and achieving our climate ambitions.

The current energy price crises has shown once more that we need to become less dependent on energy imports. Buildings can be transformed into sources of energy, notably by producing renewable energy on rooftops, storing heat in insulated homes, and using efficient and renewable heat pump technologies for residual demand. Alongside the New European Bauhaus, the EPBD is the primary legislative measure for buildings, which are responsible for 40% of our energy consumption and 36% of greenhouse gas emission.

Last year, the European Parliament passed a report "[on maximising the energy efficiency potential of the EU building stock](#)". This report highlighted "*that deep, including staged deep, renovation of the worst performing buildings should be prioritised, notably by setting minimum energy performance standards (MEPS), which are essential for investment in renovation and should apply horizontally, while being based on the existing national energy labels*". It further noted, "*that such measures benefit occupants and could help to lift citizens out of energy poverty; observes the low levels of deep renovations at an expected rate of 0.2 %; suggests the examination and introduction of minimum renovation rates in order to meet the 2050 climate neutrality targets.*" These principles must therefore be reflected in the Commission's proposal.

Ahead of the publication of the Commission's proposal of the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), please find our set of priorities that we believe should be included in the proposed text:

Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS)

- MEPS are key to ensure the gradual improvement of our building stock in line with the 2030 and 2050 climate neutrality targets. They need to trigger action before 2030, and for all buildings, especially those in energy classes E, F and G. These "worst performing buildings" are often inhabited by the energy poor and the renovation of those buildings clearly pays off in terms of costs, energy consumption, and health. Delaying action to 2030, and only covering part of our homes or limiting to the F and G classes is just not enough: If we are to reach our climate and energy targets, the EPBD holds the key to reduce our energy consumption and climate impact in a timely manner.
- MEPS must be introduced not only in public and residential buildings, but also made mandatory in non-residential buildings. Commercial buildings and those operating around the clock (including hospitals) have even higher financial benefits from reduced energy consumption levels, and Member States practices have shown that MEPS schemes work, for example in the Netherlands.
- A timeline for Member States to gradually improve the energy standards of their building stock (X rating by 202X followed by Y rating by 202Y) is key to create investor certainty, to mobilise finances and to allow training the necessary workforce.

Zero Emission Buildings in line with the climate neutrality target

- The climate neutrality target by 2050 sets the benchmark that all buildings need to achieve.
- New buildings must be passive or positive energy buildings, i.e. producing more renewable energy on-site than they consume, but action is especially necessary for the bulk of the building stock: More than 90% of today's buildings will still be there in 2050 and therefore have to become gradually zero emission buildings.
- The required building standard for all existing buildings must ensure zero or very low residual consumption levels, in line with the most recent technological developments (and not based on a 2016 pre-Green Deal, pre-climate law standard). Deep renovations, including in stages, hold the key to achieving zero emission buildings. On site generated renewable energy and highly energy efficient buildings that can store heating and cooling must become the norm in line with the climate neutrality goals.

Building Renovation Action Plans (BRAPs)

- Action plans must not only promote but also implement Member States renovation strategies
- Ambition levels on renovation, MEPS, and rates need to be adequate towards the 2030 and 2050 objectives and extensive building data must be available in the BRAPs so that we can have a clear roadmap and proper assessment of the timeline for building decarbonisation so that actions can be matched with the financial resources required.

- This must include information on worst performing buildings, fossil fuel phase out, and renewable energy share, as well as a quantification of how much GHG emissions can be saved.

We need an ambitious EPBD that will complement the Renovation wave, ensure recovery and resilience, fight energy poverty caused by the energy price surge, and achieve the climate neutrality target.

Energy efficient buildings reduce our import dependency, create safer homes, help people out of energy poverty, generate sustainable jobs at a local level, and enables us to reach our climate targets.

We now have a real opportunity here to ensure that the EPBD is a success for all- let's not miss it.

Yours,

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