

Energy Union Framework: Big on Opportunity for Buildings - Small on Actions

The Juncker Commission has prided itself with the slogan that it will be **Big on big things and Small on small things**. The buildings of the EU make up more than 50% of all fixed assets and consume around **40% of primary energy** in the EU. Construction activity accounts for about **9% of EU GDP** and about 3 million enterprises are active in the construction sector providing **more than 13 million direct jobs**. Surely this is a **big sector** that deserves a robust framework in which ambitious action can be undertaken?

With the release of the Energy Union Package today, the European Commission acknowledged that there is a huge potential for energy efficiency improvements in the buildings sector in the EU, pointing out that **75% of the housing stock in the EU is wasting energy**. But the Energy Union Package **falls short of setting urgent and ambitious actions to address this wastefulness in our buildings**.

*“A **strategic vision for our existing building stock** is what the Commission must deliver in order to be **big on growth, jobs and energy security**”* explained Adrian Joyce, Secretary General of EuroACE. *“It is the sector that can most quickly and surely boost job creation and economic activity whilst also delivering future resilience and long-lasting benefits to the EU as of now. Were those not the headline objectives of the Energy Union Package - to make the EU forward-looking, resilient and competitive? **Why then does the Energy Union Framework not take more action on buildings?**”*

The Energy Union Framework correctly notes that **“Buildings have huge potential for energy efficiency gains**. Retrofitting existing buildings to make them energy efficient (...) will reduce the EU's energy import bills, reinforce energy security and cut energy costs for households and businesses.”

EuroACE points out that we firstly **need all Member States to adopt and implement solid Renovation Strategies**, leading to a large increase in the rate and depth of renovation in the EU. Such a clear indication of the EU committing to tapping the huge cost-effective potential in the buildings sector highlighted in the Energy Union Framework is **essential to release private investment, trigger growth and reduce energy dependence across the EU**.

END

EuroACE

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About EuroACE:

EuroACE represents Europe's leading companies involved with the manufacture, distribution and installation of energy saving goods and services for buildings. EuroACE members employ over 300 000 people and have over 770 production facilities and office locations in the EU. The mission of EuroACE is to work together with the EU institutions to help Europe move towards a more efficient use of energy in buildings, thereby contributing to Europe's commitments on climate change, energy security and economic growth.

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EuroACE Members (February 2015) are:

