

PRESS RELEASE

25 June 2013

Energy Efficient Buildings Increase Comfort and Well-Being

This morning, 25 June 2013, sustainable buildings were on the agenda at the joint panel session "Quizzing the Stakeholders – Financing Sustainable Buildings" hosted by the European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EuroAce) and the VELUX Group in Brussels as part of the EU Sustainable Energy Week 2013.

Besides the VELUX Group contribution "Sustainable Buildings - What are the benefits?" the panel included:

- "EU Policies for Buildings - What next?" by Pavel Misiga, DG Environment, European Commission
- "Financing Models - Which are successful and why?" by Alexander Paskov, Johnson Controls

Sustainable buildings are more than energy efficiency according to the VELUX Group, a global leader within the building sector due to an extensive product programme containing a wide range of roof windows, skylights, and solutions for flat roofs.

In 2009, the Group kicked off the first sustainable building project to demonstrate that saving energy, improving the indoor climate and minimising the environmental impact is possible. Since then, several sustainable buildings and renovation projects have been added to its sustainable building programme, Model Home 2020, all over Europe.

Sustainable Living in Buildings is the VELUX Group's commitment to people and planet. It engages with society and delivers products and solutions made to optimise human well-being and minimise environmental impact. This shared commitment together with the association EuroACE is one of the main reasons for hosting the panel session placing sustainable building experiences and realization potentials at center stage.

At the sustainable building panel Ingrid Reumert, Head of Public Affairs, VELUX Group, said:

"As buildings account for 40 % of the energy demand, buildings play an essential role in solving the problem of reducing Europe's energy consumption. We can achieve a major bulk of Europe's 2020 carbon emission target by halving the energy use in existing buildings already in 2020 by implementing solutions that are both available and scalable.

"Our hands-on experiences show that it is possible to cut energy use, carbon emissions and improve the indoor climate with daylight and fresh air through the roof to the benefit of the people living, working and playing inside the buildings - a triple bottom line gain.

"We have the solutions now we just need to act.

"At the moment, all EU member states are implementing policies on energy efficiency to reach the 2020 goals. Within this framework it is important to tie energy efficiency to indoor climate, so we both lower the energy bill and improve peoples' productivity, health and well-being.

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Additionally Adrian Joyce, Secretary general, EuroACE, stated:

“The first renovation strategies to be published in 2014 by EU member states are a window of opportunity. We strongly favour that ambitious targets are set for renovations of buildings and recommend raising the current renovation rate from 1.2% to 3% per year. Most importantly, the renovation targets should not only encompass public but also private buildings, so we ensure to not only cut energy use but also nurture human factors such as health and well-being.

“If we speed up the renovation of existing buildings we can create around 1 million new direct jobs per year on average throughout Europe and thereby free resources for what we really care about - better infrastructure, schools and hospitals.”

Increased well-being and productivity - sustainable building experiences

Since the VELUX Group launched its sustainable building programme Model Home 2020 in 2009 six buildings in five European countries have been built and entirely renovated to show how we can meet the EU 2020 goals. Today, the people living in the climate renovated houses and sustainable new builds are reaping the benefits of that initiative.

The renowned professor in sociology from the Humboldt University, Prof. em. Dr. Dr. h.c. Bernd Wegener has observed the families who have lived in a climate renovated house and a sustainable new build for a longer period. His study shows that when we implement sustainable building principles we also increase peoples' well-being, making them more energised, healthy and productive.

For further insight into the preliminary research results please view the video feature “Climate renovation demands daylight” presenting the newest data generated from the European study by Prof. em. Dr. Dr. h.c. Bernd Wegener, Humboldt University: <http://press.velux.com/Stories/climate-renovation-demands-daylight/s/ce000d9a-84e6-4d65-980f-5471b8b543a1>

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Hard facts:

- Buildings account for 40 % of the energy consumption in Europe
- 90 % of the time is spent indoor in Europe
- Up to 30 % of the existing building mass neither contributes to nor provides a healthy indoor climate
- 90 % of today´s buildings will still be in use by 2050, therefore existing buildings offer an unexploited field for climate renovation and for unlocking unleashed potentials.
- For every 1 million euro invested in ambitious energy efficiency measures in buildings 19 direct new jobs are on average created
- The societal effect on investments in energy efficient renovations in the EU budget in the period up to 2018 could be as high as €290 billion
- The extra cost of building sustainable is lower than what people anticipate
- Building green is 0-3 % more expensive compared to building normal houses

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About EuroAce

The mission of EuroACE is to work together with the European institutions to help Europe move towards a more efficient use of energy in buildings, thereby contributing to the EU's commitments on carbon emission reductions, job creation and energy security. For further please see <http://www.euroace.org/>

The brand new video "Climate renovation demands daylight" can be seen at:
<http://press.velux.com/Stories/climate-renovation-demands-daylight/s/ce000d9a-84e6-4d65-980f-5471b8b543a1>

About VELUX Model Home 2020

In 2009, the VELUX Group launched the project Model Home 2020, a vision for climate-neutral buildings with a high level of livability. It is part of the VELUX strategy to take an active part in developing sustainable buildings – the buildings of the future.

For further please see http://www.velux.com/sustainable_living/model_home_2020/six_experiments

About the VELUX Group

The VELUX Group creates better living environments with daylight and fresh air through the roof. The VELUX product programme contains a wide range of roof windows and skylights, along with solutions for flat roofs. The Group also supplies many types of decoration and sun screening, roller shutters, installation products, products for remote control and thermal solar panels for installation in roofs. The VELUX Group, which has manufacturing companies in 11 countries and sales companies in just under 40 countries, represents one of the strongest brands in the global building materials sector and its products are sold in most parts of the world. The VELUX Group has about 10,000 employees and is owned by VKR Holding A/S, a limited company wholly owned by foundations and family. For more details, visit www.velux.com.

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