

## New requirements on public buildings

*EuroACE calls Member States to seize this opportunity to kickstart the market for deep retrofits and calls for stronger governance in the Energy Union*

**On 9 July, two thresholds that push action in public buildings, one in the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) and one in the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), will be lowered from 500m<sup>2</sup> to 250m<sup>2</sup>. As the implementation of both the EED and the EPBD by Member States has proven challenging, this step towards more stringent provisions risks remaining unheeded, despite the benefits attached to these updated requirements. This underlines the need for a stronger governance architecture for the Energy Union, if it is to deliver its full potential and promises.**

As foreseen from the start by **the EED and the EPBD**, the thresholds for some requirements related to energy efficiency in public buildings will automatically, starting today, be lowered from 500m<sup>2</sup> to 250m<sup>2</sup>. More precisely, these requirements relate to the **exemplary role of public buildings** (EED Article 5), and the **issue of Energy Performance Certificates** for public buildings (EPBD Article 12). Starting today, each Member State will have to ensure that 3% of central government buildings which have a total useful floor area above 250m<sup>2</sup> (and not only above 500m<sup>2</sup>) is renovated each year, in order to meet the minimum energy performance requirements. From today, Member States shall also ensure that an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) is issued for public buildings frequently visited by the public and with a total useful floor area above 250m<sup>2</sup> (and not only above 500m<sup>2</sup>).

*“EuroACE welcomes the widening of these requirements, as it increases the number of public buildings required to be renovated every year, and to be provided with an EPC”,* stated Susanne Dyrboel, President of EuroACE. Lowering these thresholds is therefore a step in the right direction, as it will help **delivering the multiple benefits** of improving the energy efficiency of buildings, i.e. more local jobs, more growth, reduced energy bills, more comfort, better health, improved public finances and less CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. As a matter of fact, according to the [latest report from the International Energy Agency](#), energy efficiency is the largest contributor (49%) to worldwide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions until 2030.

Consequently, these updated EED and EPBD requirements, if quickly and fully implemented, represent a wonderful **opportunity for the public sector to deliver on their promises to the European citizens**, who aspire to live and work in more efficient and comfortable buildings. Increasing the share of public buildings being renovated will enable the Member States **to lead by example and to kickstart the market** for deep retrofits. Moreover, having more public buildings with an EPC will **empower the citizens** with more information and will trigger more engagement from the wider public.

*“EuroACE is however worried that these changes might get unnoticed by Member States, and we express our **concern about the delays in the implementation** of the EED and EPBD”,* complemented Adrian Joyce, Secretary General of EuroACE. In its [last report](#), the Coalition for Energy Savings showed that the implementation of EED Article 5 has proved to be challenging for Member States. Therefore, **EuroACE calls on the Member States for action on renovating their own buildings, and providing them with an EPC**. This would be the right answer to the citizens, who are not willing anymore to let their government use taxpayers’ money to heat and cool inefficient public buildings.

**EuroACE believes that a stronger governance architecture within the Energy Union** will be part of the solution, and will continue to call on Member States to fully and ambitiously implement the EED and the EPBD. In this new governance framework, and as they have always been, EuroACE **companies are fully supportive of a proper implementation** of energy efficiency measures at national and local level, ultimately benefitting the European citizens.

**END**

## For further information

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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.

More information at [www.euroace.org](http://www.euroace.org)

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