

Business Voices from the Buildings Sector: Our Key Take-Aways on the Future of Decarbonised Buildings

Amid the preparations for the new European Commission to take office on 1st November, EuroACE organised last week its annual Business Day, to discuss with members, partners and other stakeholders about past achievements, future trends and upcoming challenges for the buildings sector. Discover the Key Take-Aways that will shape EuroACE work as we contribute to the transition towards decarbonised buildings!

1. Considering the urgency to decarbonise our economy, and the need to keep Energy Efficiency First, we need to **step up efforts to accelerate the rate and increase the depth of renovation**. This should remain a top priority for Europe.
2. We need to look **beyond individual technologies and integrate them in a holistic approach**. Let's focus on developing new business models, creating an innovative policy framework, developing the right financial tools, managing digital tools, strengthening community and local action, and upskilling the workforce with that holistic approach in mind;
3. The future lies **beyond individual buildings** in a system approach – not only integrating different existing systems together (sector coupling) but **creating a new, flexible system** enabling to optimise not only the energy consumption *in* a building, but also at a system level;
4. We should strive to **reduce the environmental impacts** of decarbonised buildings, and should therefore consider the **whole life carbon impact** of the built environment, as our aim must be to reach decarbonisation along the whole lifetime of our building stock;
5. The **educational challenge** is huge, as all professionals in the buildings supply chain (investors, developers, architects, designers, craftsmen) should get a firm understanding during education, and beyond, of the environmental impact of buildings. This should be supplemented by **good quality controls** on the ground to ensure that "*what is promised, is delivered*";
6. A home is the most important investment people make in their lives, thus buildings (their design, renovation and performance) should be **people centered**. But for that to happen, people should get **more knowledge and support**. A better monitoring and **integration of non-energy benefits** of energy efficient and decarbonised buildings is also necessary. There is a data gap around all the health, wellness and productivity benefits of well performing buildings. This needs to be better communicated to citizens in order to engage everyone in the energy transition.

"We are looking forward to a fruitful cooperation in the next five years with the Commission, the Parliament, the Member States, but also other stakeholders active in the buildings sector, be it financial institutions, cities, craftsmen representatives, other industries... We all need to continue collaborating and create a true sense of community if we want to achieve our goal of a highly efficient and decarbonised building stock by 2050", stated Céline CARRÉ, President of EuroACE. On that note, we were delighted to welcome a wider network of partners at our Back-to-School Cocktail, where our Keynote Speaker, **Hans VAN STEEN, Director for 'Renewables, Energy Efficiency, Research and Innovation' in DG Energy of the European Commission**, reminded us that buildings need to be the centrepiece in the EU energy & climate policies in order to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

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This work was initiated in view of preparing the ground for future work, while keeping a **strong emphasis on helping with the thorough implementation of EU legislation for energy efficiency in buildings**. Adrian JOYCE, Secretary General of EuroACE, explained that *"the deadline for transposing the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) lies less than six months ahead of us. EuroACE is fully committed to helping with this work. We developed a [Guide to the EPBD Implementation](#) that we continue presenting in a series of meetings in EU Capitals, as well as in [national conferences](#) that we organise. More work needs to be done, but we are already embracing longer-term opportunities for the sector, which were expertly presented at our Business Day by Ana CUNHA CRIBELLIER from Deerns, a leading global engineering consultancy."*

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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 around 286,000 people in these activities in Europe and have around 1,200 production facilities and office locations. 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.

EuroACE Members (September 2019)

