

OPED : « *An ambitious vision and strong EPBD implementation to kickstart the Renovation Wave and support a Green Recovery* »
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As we look to rapidly rebuild our economy and address the greatest environmental challenges of our time, we must fully utilise and accelerate the existing mechanisms (such as the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive) at pace to unleash the multiple economic, social and environmental benefits of building renovation. A reflection as today marks the 10th Anniversary date of the EPBD II publication.

We spend around 90% of our time in buildings, even more so now during the current crisis. They consume more than 40% of all primary energy and emit more than 36% of the EU's CO₂ emissions. As we look to rebuild our economy post COVID-19, the first place to start is energy efficiency and the renovation of Europe's building stock. If we are serious about achieving climate neutrality by 2050 and delivering benefits to European businesses and citizens, then the buildings sector must be addressed. To become a carbon neutral continent, we must achieve highly energy efficient and decarbonised buildings.

The revised EPBD III under the Clean Energy for all Europeans package has set a clear direction for the full decarbonisation of Europe's building stock by 2050 utilising mechanisms including national long-term renovation strategies (LTRS), smart readiness indicator and building renovation passports. The transfer of the national LTRS from the Energy Efficiency Directive to the EPBD has strengthened the provision but in order to achieve its objective, we must ensure that it actually results in increased action and renovation activity at national level.

Long-term renovation strategies: time is of the essence

Unfortunately, despite the enormous potential benefits of building renovation, the current renovation rate is stagnant at around 1% a year. Real action and financing are needed to hit the required 3% of buildings renovated per year and unleash the positive economic and social benefits that deep or staged-deep energy renovation can have.

To date, only six countries and one region have submitted their renovation strategies under the revised directive implementation deadline of 10 March. The current crisis is unlikely to speed up the process, but time is of the essence. The LTRS will provide important input into the proposed ['Renovation Wave' initiative](#) announced as part of the European Green Deal. It is crucial that Member States seize this opportunity to remove potential regulatory barriers and stimulate a faster pace of building renovation across the EU.



An ambitious EU renovation programme up to 2050 will provide policy certainty and a clear signal to investors and industry to unlock more financing for renovation over the next three decades. This can be paralleled with the strong vision that the EPBD II gave to the sector exactly 10 years ago, when it set the goal of every new building to be at nearly zero energy level by 2020.



Today, all efforts must be focused on mobilising the resources needed to tackle multiple challenges. These resources must be deployed wisely to benefit people and accelerate the transition to a sustainable and resilient economy.

As we await further details of the proposed Renovation Wave this autumn, we must ensure that building renovation remains a key priority and central pillar of the green recovery plan, playing a central role in combating the effects of climate change whilst also improving the lives of millions across the EU for decades to come.

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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 more than 200,000 people in these activities in Europe and have around 1,000 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 (2020)

