

PRESS RELEASE

EuroACE – Energy Efficient Buildings
'Revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2021: A New Era of Action'
Brussels, 15th of December 2021

The proposal for a revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) was launched today by the European Commission as the final tassel of its 'Fit for 55' mosaic. EuroACE- Energy Efficient Buildings sees great potential in the proposal as its new and revised elements, if ambitiously implemented, can have the power to transform the Renovation Wave from strategy to reality.

The introduction of new standards for energy efficient buildings is the centrepiece of the revised Buildings Directive. This regulatory instrument, coupled with a strong technical assistance and financing component, should make the EPBD the heart of the Fit for 55 Package by enabling a just and green transition in the building sector. The approach proposed by the European Commission, which sees all worst-performing buildings in the EU improve their energy performance by 2030 at the latest (or 2033 depending on the purpose of the building), is the starting point for a systemic change. However, a lot has to be done to ensure that ambitious energy renovations are carried out in a timely and strategic way across the building stock in the EU. According to **Adrian JOYCE, Secretary General of EuroACE**: *"Minimum Energy Performance Standards must be designed on a segment-by-segment basis requiring all buildings in a segment to become highly energy efficient and decarbonised by a fixed date in the future, and well before 2050."*

Planning is key when it comes to preparing the building sector to embark on this journey. EuroACE welcomes the transformation of the Long-term Renovation Strategies into **National Building Renovation Plans. These need to become proper operational plans**, via which Member States will be able to better coordinate and operationalise their efforts to deliver a **"zero-emissions building stock" by 2050**. As **Céline Carré, acting President of EuroACE**, said: *"The National Building Renovation Plans are instrumental to deliver on the full decarbonisation of our building stock. With strengthened requirements and guided by the Energy Efficiency First Principle, they should help the entire value chain to deeply renovate our building stock, with progressive efficiency standards at their core"*.

Enabling more and deeper energy renovations will need the strong support of a well-functioning Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) framework. EuroACE welcomes the intention of the Commission to strengthen EPCs requirement and enable their harmonisation across Member States; however, more could be done to ensure maximum coverage and reliability. A more prominent role should be given to real-time data and digital solutions in this regard. As our incoming **Vice-President of EuroACE, Bertrand Deprez** said *"Digital technologies improve efficiency through the entire lifecycle of a building, however their potential is still underestimated. The revised EPBD should benefit more from these solutions and create a more real data-oriented approach to improve the energy performance of our building stock."*

ENDS

Additional information and links:

- The new standards for energy efficient buildings are called by the text of the revised EPBD, **Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS)** and they are introduced by new Article 9. They were firstly mentioned by the Renovation Wave Strategy in 2020. Examples of MEPS across Europe are already present, and they can be found in this [Report](#) prepared by the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP).
- **National Building Renovation Plans** are the revised Long-Term Renovation Strategies, and they are enshrined in the new Article 3. By means of this Article, Member States are required to prepare roadmaps for building renovation actions with milestones for 2030, 2040 and 2050. To enable a better implementation of these Plans, the European Commission has put forward a template in Annex II of the proposal for Member States to follow and more monitoring from the side of the European Commission will be undertaken to make sure that these roadmaps are consistent with their final goal of reaching a zero-emissions building stock by 2050. The changes included in new Article 3 reflect the findings of the [staff working document](#) on the final assessment of the Long-term Renovation Strategies which was published alongside the proposal to revise the Directive.
- A Study prepared by the Buildings Performance Institute Europe and the Renovate Europe Campaign estimates that for every €1 million invested in energy renovation of buildings, an average of 18 jobs are created in the EU. Read the [Study](#) to learn more about **the multiple benefits of energy renovation**, especially in the context of the EU economic recovery post COVID-19 pandemic.
- In view of the multiple socio-economic benefits entailed in energy renovation, **deep renovation** should be dramatically scaled up and made the default approach in all policymaking related to the improvement of the energy performance of buildings. Moreover, increasing the rate of deep renovations was one of the main priorities of the Renovation Wave Strategy launched in 2020. To learn more on this, please refer to this [Report](#) prepared by the Buildings Performance Institute Europe.

For further information

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About EuroACE - Energy Efficient Buildings

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 220,000 people in these activities in Europe and have over 1,100 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.

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