

## EPBD General Approach – Not yet walking the talk

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The European Council adopted its General Approach on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) today. While negotiators maintained essential elements of the Commission proposal, it fails to match the ambition level needed to answer the current energy crisis and put the EU on a path to achieve its energy and climate goals.

The current energy price crisis highlights the rising costs of Europe's energy dependency and poor building energy performance. Buildings account for 40% of our energy consumption, and energy renovations are one of the best solutions to durably shelter citizens and businesses from price hikes. Energy efficiency solutions are well known and already available: insulation, windows, ventilation systems, decarbonised heating and cooling systems, technical building systems and building automation and control systems.

According to **Adrian JOYCE, Secretary General of EuroACE**: “Higher energy efficiency and renewable energy targets alone are not enough – they must be supported by a strong EPBD revision to oblige action in the buildings sector. Ambitious structural measures must be in place when short term relief measures are phased out.”

In this context, EuroACE welcomes the Czech Presidency's determination to move forward and efforts to maintain Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for all segments of the building stock.

However, the Council's General Approach is less ambitious than the original European Commission proposal. Regarding MEPS - the cornerstone of the proposal - the General Approach fails to set clear benchmarks and introduces several exemptions reducing ambition. It also weakens provisions harmonising Energy Performance Certificates and improving indoor environmental quality in all building types. These are key issues for industrial players and citizens alike. A clear calendar of improvements for all actors, including owners, finance institutions and industry players is needed to accelerate energy renovation activity in Europe, in line with the Renovation Wave ambition. Crucially, these are key points made in a joint statement issued by FR, DE, BE, NL, IE, and LU as the General Approach was agreed.

“This is where we in EuroACE see room to go back to the drawing board during the upcoming European Parliament discussions and trilogues and design a renovation path that answers today's energy security and climate imperatives. A path that will help EU citizens stay warm in winter and keep bills under control. **said Céline Carré, President of EuroACE and Head of Public Affairs at Saint Gobain.**

More could have also been done to create a real data-oriented approach to improve the energy performance of our building stock. Digital technologies, whose potential remains stubbornly underestimated, improve efficiency throughout the entire lifecycle of a building. “We cannot hope to overcome the tidal wave of the current energy crisis merely by standing still in its wake. We must, instead, move forward boldly, and at least maintain the level of ambition that the European Commission showed with its initial proposals. This includes technical elements such as the adoption of the Smart Readiness Indicator, the introduction of digital building logbooks and building automation and control systems in non-residential buildings.” **said Bertrand Deprez, Vice-President of EuroAce and Head of EU Government Affairs at Schneider Electric**

**ENDS**

#### Additional information and links:

- Please find EuroACE's 2 pager - EPBD: Opening the door to efficient buildings - [here](#)
- Please find EuroACE's position on the EPBD [here](#)
- 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.

#### 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.

#### EuroACE Members (2022)

