

EPBD adoption in the ITRE Committee Limited improvements to the Commission proposal

09/02/23

The European Parliament’s ITRE Committee adopted its Report on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) today. Following lengthy negotiations, the text provides welcome, albeit limited, improvements to the European Commission proposal. Energy Efficiency industry players now call on the Members of the European Parliament to avoid further delays and give a clear mandate to the Rapporteur during the upcoming vote in Strasbourg.

A year after the start of Russia’s aggression in Ukraine, fewer and fewer policy makers seem to walk the talk on energy efficiency. Grand speeches did not translate into ambition when it comes to the Green Deal’s main tool to reduce Europe’s dependence on Russian gas – the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. The ITRE Committee Report ends up too close to the pre-war Commission proposal.

This sends a contradictory message – the current energy crisis clearly highlights the need for more efficient buildings and price relief measures for vulnerable households and businesses are likely to decrease in the coming months. In this context, interest in energy renovation works is on the rise and the [industry stands ready to deliver](#).

According to Adrian JOYCE, Secretary General of EuroACE: “Energy renovations are the best tool we have to sustainably shelter European citizens and businesses from volatile energy prices. A more coordinated industrial policy is now needed to achieve a smooth ramp up towards energy independence and a fully decarbonised building stock by 2050. The EPBD recast is an opportunity to shift from crisis management to systemic change.”

EuroACE acknowledges the work of the ITRE Committee. The adopted Report provides a clear roadmap for owners and industry players for the next 10 years, agreeing to introduce Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) and a harmonised Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) scheme. A few important dispositions have also been improved: the roll out of the Zero Emission Building standard is slightly accelerated and the text now encourages the uptake of digital tools and new financial instruments. It also puts a stronger focus on the multiple benefits of energy efficiency, including health and wellbeing.

However, the far-reaching derogations granted to Member States on MEPS are a clear missed opportunity. Maintaining citizens in worst performing buildings instead of helping them improve their living conditions by renovating their homes is not the forward-looking policymaking Europe needs right now.

“The EPBD revision is a key component to REPower Europe as it is our opportunity to not only make our building sector resilient but also to improve living conditions. The European Parliament has strengthened the Commission proposal in several points, particularly when it comes to addressing Whole-Life Carbon in new buildings and better factoring in Indoor Environmental Quality. These are important improvements but to significantly boost our annual renovation rate at EU level, we need a strong framework for MEPS and EPCs, and here we are still far from reaching the full potential” **said Julie Kjestrup, President of EuroACE and EU Affairs Lead at Velux.**

“The clear loophole introduced to preserve fossil fuelled appliances in buildings is disappointing. This goes against consumers’ interests and the need to speed up electrification in Europe. However, we acknowledge the need for compromises and support the overall package. Ambition has been raised where return on investment is fastest: non-residential buildings, active energy efficiency, and technical building systems.” **said Bertrand Deprez, Vice-President of EuroAce and VP EU Government Affairs at Schneider Electric**

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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 (2023)

