

The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive must become a key enabler for building renovation and lead to an nZEB-level building stock by 2050

EuroACE responds to the public consultation on the EPBD

On 30 October 2015, EuroACE submitted its reply to the online questionnaire on the EPBD Consultation and issued a Position Paper on the topic. The Alliance called for the EPBD to do more for renovation and support the realisation of an nZEB-level building stock by 2050, e.g. via more holistic approach to renovation to maximise energy and economic gains, improved EPCs to evolve into proper work planning tools, and upskilling of the workforce. Also, the EPBD should be more thoroughly implemented, and supported by well-designed financing schemes. This will enable the EU to meet its objectives and to unleash the multiple benefits of building renovation, *inter alia* comfort, energy security, jobs, growth and resilience for a smooth energy transition.

The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), adopted in 2010, foresees in its Article 19 that the Directive must be evaluated by 1st January 2017 at the latest. The European Commission, in its Communication on the Energy Union (published in February 2015) recognised the importance of buildings as a key sector to be addressed. The online public consultation from June to the end of October 2015 sought to gather stakeholder input ahead of a planned **review and possible revision of the EPBD by the end of 2016**.

EuroACE, representing a broad range of leading companies that provide the products, equipment and services that together ensure our buildings are highly energy efficient, believes that the energy performance of buildings in the EU must **remain a sector that is regulated by EU policy and legislation**, and that the EPBD is fully in line with subsidiarity. The existing regulatory framework for the energy performance and efficiency of buildings must be **fully implemented and enforced** and any future development must be conceived with a clear, ambitious objective, i.e. to ensure that the **building stock as a whole reaches an nZEB performance level by 2050**. A building stock at nZEB-level by 2050, with clear milestones in 2030 and 2040, is the **best starting point for a cost-effective energy transition towards a smart energy system in the EU**.

The focus of the regulatory framework must be urgently increased towards **existing buildings** as they have the **highest energy savings potential**. It must ensure that each Member State, notably by developing and implementing national energy renovation strategies, captures the full savings potential tied up in its building stock, whilst also delivering the **multiple benefits** that flow from **ambitious energy renovation programmes**. To facilitate the achievement of this vision for 2050, the **nZEB definition should be clarified** and more detailed **guidance** on the concept should be developed by the European Commission for use by the Member States, especially on how it can be extended to existing buildings.

The regulatory framework for the energy performance of buildings, whether applied to new or existing buildings, should reward **integrated approaches that ensure optimisation of all factors** that contribute to a high energy performance, including decisions on the building envelope, technical building systems, maintenance regimes and controls. Significant and continuous efforts to **raise and maintain awareness** of the huge contribution that energy renovation of our existing buildings can bring for the benefit of all must be maintained at all levels throughout the EU. At the same time, tools to **engage and motivate consumers** should be developed, such as, for example, individual tailored building renovation roadmaps. Measures to **improve the quality and coordination of energy efficiency works and services** must also be put in place including, *inter alia*, **training and up-skilling of the workforce** (all professions and trades), more regular inspections of works and more enforcement of good practices, monitoring of results and feedback to ensure constant improvements are achieved. Finally, **access to financial resources**, based on a stable, predictable and long-term regulatory framework, must be possible at key moments in the life of a building so that cost-effective measures can be put in place in a timely, well-planned manner. **Regular reviews** of the regulatory framework must be undertaken as well, to ensure that it remains relevant, up to date and adequately ambitious to ensure achievement of a **resilient and high quality nZEB building stock by 2050**.

More detailed information can be found in the EuroACE Reply to the Online Questionnaire as well as in a Position Paper, which are located on the EuroACE website, at

<http://www.euroace.org/EuroACEActions/PolicyOverview/EnergyPerformanceofBuildingsDirective.aspx>

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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 over 315 000 people and have over 880 production facilities and office locations in the EU. 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.

More information at www.euroace.org

EuroACE Members (November 2015) are

