

Spanish building community calls for greater ambition on energy renovation of buildings

On 14th June, the European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EuroACE) organised a workshop in Madrid on 'Energy Renovation of Buildings in Spain'. Over 50 participants from the industry, the financial sector, the European Commission, Spanish national and local authorities gathered in the Official College of Architects Madrid (COAM) to discuss the crucial role of building renovation in the Spanish Energy Transition and for the Spanish economy. The workshop also led to the adoption of the 'Madrid Declaration, a 'call to action' to the Spanish authorities to show greater political courage and leadership for a more ambitious energy renovation of the existing building stock in Spain.

Energy renovation of buildings is at the centre of the **Spanish Energy Transition**, as well as a crucial element of the **Spanish economy**. There is indeed a **strong business case** behind improving the energy efficiency of buildings. At the EuroACE workshop, speakers presented their expert views on those topics. They also looked at how to **match financing with regulatory ambition**, notably by better using funds, as well as how to deal with the **'implementation challenge'**, i.e. how to transpose and enforce EU legislation on energy efficiency to its full potential. The significant **benefits** that building renovation brings to **citizens, governments and companies** in terms of improved health & well-being, local job creation, security of supply and lower energy bills, were also highlighted. *"If you really want to boost economic activity and create local, quality jobs, then ambitious energy renovation programmes are the answer"*, said Adrian JOYCE, EuroACE Secretary General.

The intense and lively discussions at the workshop led **21 leading building material and services companies and associations to endorse the 'Madrid Declaration', a call to action to the Spanish authorities** to show greater political courage and leadership for a more ambitious energy renovation of the existing building stock. This occurs at the time of the negotiations on the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED). *"This coming together of Spanish stakeholders shows there is strong willingness from industry and the financial sector to do their job for renovating the Spanish building stock. Now we need leadership and support from the authorities when they negotiate and implement EU legislation"*, explained Adrian JOYCE. *"We are more than happy to **welcome other organisations which would like to sign the Declaration**"*, he added.

Siân HUGHES, Director of External Affairs Europe for Knauf Insulation and Knauf Group, recalled that *"Spain has over 23 million homes, of which 10 million were built before buildings codes required any thermal insulation let alone other energy savings technologies. **Spain also has a rising level of fuel poverty**, particularly among the elderly. The potential for modernising the Spanish building stock and **improving the lives of millions of Spanish citizens** is enormous. But if building renovation is left to the market, not enough will be done."*

The EuroACE workshop was organised with the **sponsorship of Knauf / Knauf Insulation**, and was timed to **coincide with the [European Commission's Sustainable Energy Investment Forum](#)** held in Madrid on 15th June.

Read the Madrid Declaration here! [English version](#) [Spanish version](#)

EuroACE

THE EUROPEAN ALLIANCE OF COMPANIES
FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDINGS

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 280.000 people in these activities in Europe, and have around 900 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 (June 2017) are

