

Building efficiency: Parliament ENVI Committee takes the lead

Yesterday, 7th September, the Environment Committee of the European Parliament, adopted both the JÄÄTTEENMÄKI and GUTELAND Opinion Reports. These reports on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) send a clear and positive initial signal from the European Parliament on building energy renovation as a key solution.

EuroACE, the European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings, welcomes the adoption of the JÄÄTTEENMÄKI Report on the EPBD. For example, the ENVI Committee overwhelmingly (53 in favour, 6 abstentions) voted to clarify that a decarbonized building stock means a stock which is highly energy efficient and performs at nZEB level. The national long-term renovation strategies were also considerably strengthened, with milestones and actions plans.

Other improvements on the Commission proposal are on financing, the introduction of energy advisory services, roll-out of smart technologies, and a strong encouragement to perform energy improvements in a holistic manner, so as to improve indoor air quality. The report clearly recalls that energy efficient buildings have a lot to deliver, notably for improving our comfort and health. *“Such improvements should have been complemented with a clear support for Building Renovation Passports, which we believe is the tool of the future to support consumers in comprehensive, step-by-step renovations”*, commented Adrian JOYCE, EuroACE Secretary General.

EuroACE also welcomes the adoption of the GUTELAND Report on the EED, which recalled the Parliament’s position for a binding 40% energy efficiency target for 2030. Other positive elements include national binding targets, and widening the scope of the public sector renovation objective to all public buildings (not only those centrally owned and occupied by government). Article 7 on the annual energy savings obligation, was also very much bolstered, with the elimination of loopholes and inclusion of transport in the baseline.

“At a moment when news is reminding us that climate change is present and not future, it is essential to put in place the right EU policy framework which gives business and finance the needed confidence to accelerate building renovation. And only a solid 2030 and 2050 framework, equipped with building renovation milestones, will secure adequate investment for all European citizens to enjoy the various benefits stemming from energy renovations”, stated Céline CARRÉ, President of EuroACE.

“We now wish that the good work done in the ENVI Committee over the last months will be taken up in ITRE, which is the lead committee on both files, and we will work to further embed the Energy Efficiency First principle in the EPBD”, said Adrian JOYCE, EuroACE Secretary General. The ITRE Committee will vote on the EPBD on 11th October (BENDTSEN Report) and on the EED on 28th November (GIEREK Report).

More information on Building Renovation Passports [here](#).

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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.

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