

Energy Efficiency Directive: Agreement sends important signal on role of energy efficiency

After a 16-hour long round of negotiations, the European Parliament and the Council reached an agreement on the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED). While EuroACE had hoped for more ambition, the final agreement represents an improvement over the 2018 version. Critical now is the implementation at national level and EuroACE and its members call on Member States to take the new objectives into account in their revised National Energy and Climate Plans. The upcoming vote on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) also needs to follow suit.

Almost a year after the publication of the REPowerEU Communication, the European Parliament and the Council struck an agreement, raising Europe's ambition on energy efficiency. While the 11.7% target adopted is far below the industry's demands, the final text contains some positive elements:

“For the first time, the Europe Union sets itself a binding energy efficiency target, and a mechanism to enforce it. This addresses one of the main weaknesses of the previous Energy Efficiency Directive” said Adrian Joyce, Secretary General of EuroACE. “The agreement also includes a legal definition of the Energy Efficiency First (EE1st) principle, which should become a guiding principle for the EPBD and be rolled out in concrete projects.”

The deal also confirmed the role of the public sector in leading the uptake of efficiency solutions. The agreement requires public bodies to achieve an annual energy consumption reduction of 1.9% across their activities and to renovate at least 3% of the total floor area of buildings owned by public bodies each year.

“To achieve Europe's energy efficiency target, the building sector is at the very core. What matters now is the right focus, coherence across different files and accelerated speed to tackle the energy performance and CO2 footprint of our buildings through energy renovations, also improving living conditions. The next step is the adoption of an ambitious Report on the EPBD next week in Strasbourg.” said Julie Kjestrup, President of EuroACE and Head of Policy and Thought Leadership at VELUX.

“While the industry hoped for more ambition, we welcome the dispositions regarding public buildings and energy management systems. Effective implementation will now be key to deliver on the updated energy efficiency objectives – the first step should be their translation into the revised National Energy and Climate Plans in June this year” said Bertrand Deprez, Vice-President of EuroACE and VP EU Government Affairs at Schneider Electric

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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)

