Ursula von der Leyen European Commission President European Commission Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 Bruxelles

Subject: EPBD - Closing the Green Deal on a high note

Dear President von der Leyen,

We, business leaders of European frontrunners on energy efficiency in buildings, support the swift adoption of an ambitious Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD). While necessary short term energy savings have been the Commission's focus last year, structural measures should be adopted by the end of the mandate to reinforce Europe's industrial competitiveness through energy efficiency in buildings.

Buildings represent over one third of our GHG emissions – and it is vital the Green Deal's last cornerstone adequately reflects the importance of this sector towards meeting climate goals. Beyond this, efficient buildings and energy renovations exemplify the green transition's objectives: they create local jobs, shelter European citizens and businesses from high energy prices, and improve overall living conditions.

Speed is of the essence but the EPBD's ambition should not be sacrificed in the name of a quick deal. We count on the European Commission to stand strong and defend this important piece of legislation.

This Directive can become the EU's industrial policy for the construction and energy efficiency sector. We particularly support:

- A flexible, yet solid approach on Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS): It will provide necessary market visibility and encourage investments throughout the renovation value chain, unlock further production capacity and help companies optimise and scale up training programmes. Clear timelines and benchmarks will also help to better plan renovation works whilst improving living conditions for millions of citizens in their homes and workplaces.
- Increased access to quality information and guidance: Public and private One Stop Shops and information tools such as Energy Performance Certificates, Renovation Passports and the Smart Readiness Indicator must be rolled out to better inform and simplify renovation works.
- New instruments are needed to mobilise finance: EU and national funds can be used more efficiently to cut costs for homeowners, and dedicated mortgage portfolio standards and renovation loans can facilitate access to finance.

Europe cannot afford to lose another decade when it comes to energy efficiency in buildings. The EPBD can unlock the full benefits smart and efficient buildings provide. Our industry is ready to deliver.



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