

Press Release

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EPBD recast proposal: renovation potential not fully boosted

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The recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) is key to delivering energy savings and emissions cut in the building sector in a way that benefits EU citizens and businesses. The EPBD must be at the heart of an EU transition towards climate neutrality that is fair and inclusive for all. The recast proposal improves the provisions to increase energy efficiency in buildings and extends the directive's scope to cover also sustainability aspects but fails to unleash the full renovation potential needed to decarbonise the EU building stock.

The European Commission released its proposal to recast the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), intending to put in place measures to decarbonise European buildings by 2050. The EPBD is indispensable to reach the objective of the Fit for 55 Package, namely a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030.

The Coalition welcomes the recast of the EPBD: without an acceleration of actions in the buildings sector, the achievement of a higher 2030 EU energy efficiency target can not be achieved. However, the recast proposal should be strengthened in order to live up to its ambition of creating a strong enabling framework that substantially speeds up renovations to deliver energy savings, emissions cuts, and better living conditions for citizens, especially the most vulnerable.

The recast EPBD requires Member States to set Mandatory Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for all buildings types, *i.e.*, a requirement for the worst performing buildings to be upgraded to higher energy efficiency standards by a specific date. But, disappointingly, it only covers buildings in the lower classes of the Energy Performance Certificate: class G and F. Public and non-residential buildings will have to be renovated to class F by 2027 and class E by 2030, while residential buildings must achieve these levels by 2030 and 2033 respectively, according to the proposal. While it is positive that MEPS have been seeded in the EPBD, their low ambition and lack of a clear longer-term outlook hamper the achievement of the energy-savings potential of the sector. What is proposed is also not enough to boost the deep renovation rate and ensure better living conditions for all citizens.

“The path to climate neutrality starts from our homes and the EPBD should show the way,” says Arianna Vitali, Secretary General of The Coalition for Energy Savings. **“The recast proposal is timid when it comes to translating the ambition of the Renovation Wave into measures, particularly as the vast majority of the building stock could be left unrenovated for more than a decade. This is a problem for the climate, but also for citizens, who need support to save energy and reduce their energy bills.”**

The Coalition welcomes that all new buildings must be zero-emissions by 2030 and that Long-term renovation strategies have been turned into National building renovation plans that are more action-oriented and based on a mandatory template to facilitate comparability and assessment of progress.

Finally, we are concerned that the energy efficiency first principle is hardly mentioned in the recast proposal; reducing energy consumption is the first necessary step to achieve a zero-emission building stock and the principle should be better reflected by co-legislators in the upcoming negotiations.

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Notes for editors:

- The European Commission proposal to recast the EPBD can be accessed [here](#).
- The Coalition for Energy Savings' response to the Inception Impact Assessment for the EPBD revision can be found [here](#).

The [Coalition for Energy Savings](#) strives to make energy efficiency and savings the first consideration of energy policies and the driving force towards a secure, sustainable and competitive European Union. Its membership unites businesses, local authorities, energy agencies, energy communities and civil society organisations in pursuit of this goal.

[Coalition members](#) represent:

- more than 500 associations, 200 companies, 1,500 cooperatives
- 15 million supporters and 1 million citizens as members of cooperatives
- 2,500 cities and towns in 30 countries in Europe

Members of the Coalition:

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