

Press Release

For more information, please contact:
Antonin Chapelot
Tel: +32 492 42 66 61
antonin.chapelot@energycoalition.eu

Energy Ministers fail to live up to renovation promises

Luxembourg, 25 October 2022

EU energy ministers lose sight of the energy security crisis and high energy prices when adopting their position on the recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD).

At today's meeting, the Energy Council adopted its "general approach" on the recast of the EPBD; the agreed text is weaker than the Commission's proposal, as the timeline to implement key building renovation measures is pushed back, the ambition level lowered, and too many flexibilities are granted to Member States.

While ministers agreed to introduce an article on Minimum Energy Performance Standards (an obligation to upgrade existing buildings to a higher level of performance by a certain date), the design of this obligation, especially for residential buildings, is not clear and reliable enough to substantially accelerate renovations of EU's buildings within this decade and address energy poverty. During the Council debate, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands highlighted those shortcomings and announced that they will sign a declaration asking for more ambition on Minimum Energy Performance Standards during the upcoming interinstitutional negotiations.

Arianna Vitali, Secretary-General of the Coalition for Energy Savings said:

"To achieve EU energy independence and protect the most vulnerable from high energy prices, energy ministers should have committed to double down efforts on building renovations, particularly the worst performing ones. The ball is now in the court of the European Parliament to inject ambition and ensure the recast EPBD offers concrete and strong solutions to energy poverty, long-term predictability for the construction sector, and an acceleration of greenhouse gas emissions cuts."

The Council's general approach also weakens the provisions on the Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs); the suggested dilution would not fix the current lack of comparability of EPCs across countries. In the same direction, the maximum energy use of a Zero-Emission Building would be nationally determined, and not based on thresholds set in the directive's Annex III. On a more positive note, the Council agreed to follow a clear template to draft national building renovation plans; this would avoid the existing disparities in the EU27 planning documents.

The European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) is expected to adopt its report on the 29th of November and a plenary vote is for the moment planned during the December session of the European Parliament. If this timeline is respected, the interinstitutional negotiations on the final text of the EPBD should start in early 2023 under the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Notes for editors:

- The recordings of the Energy Council can be accessed [here](#).
- The Commission's proposal to amend the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive can be accessed [here](#).
- The EU Save Energy Plan that recommends introducing additional and stronger Minimum Energy Performance Standards compared to the Commission's proposal can be found [here](#).
- The Coalition for Energy Savings' position paper on the EPBD recast can be accessed [here](#).

Media Contact: Antonin Chapelot

+32 492 42 66 61 | antonin.chapelot@energycoalition.eu | [@EUenergysavings](#)

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:

Members of the Coalition: **APPLiA** - Home Appliance Europe | **BPIE** - Buildings Performance Institute Europe (advisory member) | **CAN Europe** - Climate Action Network Europe | **CEE Bankwatch Network** | **ClientEarth** | **Climate Alliance** | **E.V.V.E.** - European Association for the Consumption-based Billing of Energy Costs | **E3G** | **eceee** - European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy | **ECOS** - Environmental Coalition on Standards | **EEB** - European Environmental Bureau | **EFIEES** - European Federation of Intelligent Energy Efficiency Services | **ehi** - Association of the European Heating Industry | **Energy Cities** | **EPEE** - European Partnership for Energy and the Environment | **eurima** - European Insulation Manufacturers Association | **EuroACE** - The European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings | **EU-ASE** - European Alliance to Save Energy | **ECF** - European Climate Foundation | **ECI** - European Copper Institute - Copper Alliance | **FEDARENE** - The European Federation of Agencies and Regions for Energy and the Environment | **Friends of the Earth Europe** | **Housing Europe** | **PU Europe** - European Association of Polyurethane Insulation Manufacturers | **RAP** - The Regulatory Assistance Project (advisory member) | **REScoop.eu** | **T&E** - Transport & Environment | **WWF** European Policy Office
