

Press Release

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

EPBD committee vote: A modest ITRE position for a crucial directive

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Members of the European Parliament's Industry & Energy (ITRE) committee approved today a timid Report on the recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) following months of complicated discussions among political groups.

The ongoing energy crisis has shown the importance of initiating a massive renovation wave of Europe's buildings to reduce consumers' energy bills, alleviate energy poverty and decrease the EU's dependence on fossil fuel imports, without compromising on climate goals.

After lengthy negotiations, members of the ITRE committee approved today an EPBD report that provides only a modest answer to the challenge of renovating the EU's worst performing residential buildings. While the provision on Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) is slightly more ambitious than the Commission's proposal, the report introduces a derogation that would leave almost one fourth of the most inefficient residential buildings unrenovated until January 2037, at odds with the imperative of reducing energy poverty. Equally concerning, publicly owned social housing can also be exempted by the renovation requirement.

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

"Building renovations are the prerequisite to achieve EU energy independence and reduce household's energy bills, but members of the Industry committee are still timid when it comes to unleash their full potential. The EPBD must set a framework that allows to save energy with no delays in our buildings, especially the residential ones. The March plenary must better recognize this priority and inject ambition into the committee deal."

On a more positive note, the report strengthens certain provisions of the Commission's proposal; for example, it brings forward the date by which new buildings must comply with the new Zero-Emission Building standard, and it requires that National Building Renovation Plans (the current Long-term renovation strategies) respect the energy efficiency first principle.

The plenary vote on the EPBD recast is scheduled for the Strasbourg session of the third week of March (13th to 16th); interinstitutional negotiations are expected to start under the Swedish Presidency of the Council.

Notes for editors:

- The Commission's proposal to amend the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive can be accessed [here](#).
- The Council's general approach on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive can be accessed [here](#).
- The Coalition for Energy Savings' press release on the Council's general approach can be accessed [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 | [@EUenergysavings](mailto:antonin.chapelot@energycoalition.eu)

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
