

EAE reminds of the role energy-efficiency must play

EAE, the European Association for External Thermal Insulation Composite Systems (ETICS), welcomes the European Commission's initiative taking immediate action to reduce Europe's dependency on energy imports and thus to improve its energy security. Already in EAE's Energy Saving Guide 2016 we raised this point and requested to strengthen efforts to improve the energy-efficiency of our economies and societies.

Unfortunately, latest geopolitical developments demonstrate the urgency of the topic. Although EAE members fully support the need to take immediate action, concerns are that measures will too much focus on ad-hoc measures to replace one source of energy by another whilst contradicting the efficiency first principle. This is why we support the proposals of the Renovate Europe Campaign and call on the European Commission and Member States to take people's awareness as an opportunity to accelerate Europe's energy transition via both: significantly improving energy-efficiency and replacing the residual lower demand by renewable energy sources.

In particular the European Commission and Member States should check and re-adjust legislative proposals, national Recovery and Resilience Plans and National Building Renovation Plans (formerly: Long Term Renovation Strategies) considering the following aspects:

- **Energy-efficiency is Europe's first fuel** as the aging building stock accounts for around 40% of Europe's energy demand and CO2 emissions.
- **Scale up ambitions** to achieve Europe's energy transition.
- Consider the role of social housing to **reduce energy poverty** as those buildings are typically occupied by vulnerable households suffering most from rocketing energy prices. Make sure that no one is left behind.
- Strengthen the role of **one-stop-shops** to make access to both financial and technical support as convenient as possible for building owners to lower the barriers to renovation.
- Promote deep or staged **deep renovation**; individual building renovation roadmaps might offer technical guidance towards carbon neutrality both in terms of technical and economical feasibility.
- **Avoid lock-in effects**: building renovation is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Measures taken today will be in place in 2050.
- **Raise the awareness** of private property owners for the benefits of energy-efficiency renovation by media campaigns and offer funding for energy audits and individual building renovation roadmaps that guide building owners.
- **Support system loyalty** in case of kits used to improve thermal insulation **and construction supervision** to guarantee long-term performance of installed solutions; deploy full funding only if quality criteria can be proven.
- Give building owners a **reliable long-term perspective**: continuity and transparency in funding schemes, schedule for enforcements of energy-performance requirements are key to allow for staged deep renovations for those who cannot afford deep renovations in one stage. Only then building renovation roadmaps can deploy their full potential.
- **Reliable framework conditions** are also key to all parties along the construction value chain: uncertainties are barriers to invest in capacity building both in regard to material supplies and skilled workforce.

EAE position on RePowerEU

ENERGY-EFFICIENCY IS EUROPE'S FIRST FUEL



- **Do not undermine** objectives of the EED and EPBD revision by short-term measures, but support them.
- **Monitor measures and milestones** of national Recovery and Resilience Plans and ensure timely re-adjustments and re-allocations of not-used budgets if they fall short achieving previously agreed targets. Every year lost will only increase the challenge in coming years.

References:

1. *European Energy Saving Guide 2016*, EAE, <https://www.ea-etics.com/publications-events/european-energy-saving-guide/>
2. *REPowerEU – Energy Security and Resilience through Renovation, Renovate Europe Campaign, policy brief*, 7 April 2022, <https://www.renovate-europe.eu/2022/04/08/rec-actions-repowerEU/>
3. *REPowerEU Energy Saving Plan: Time to switch to action*, BPIE, 2 May 2022

About EAE

- EAE is the voice of the ETICS industry in Europe.
- EAE members represent more than 80 per cent of Europe's revenue from ETICS.
- EAE has been constantly working towards a “culture of sustainability” in the construction sector since its foundation 2008.

EAE members



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