

Business leaders call for an EU vision for the building sector: NZEB level building stock by 2050

Brussels, 23 September 2016

Dear President Juncker, Dear First–Vice President Timmermans,

We, representatives of major European industries and building community, see the upcoming review of the Energy Performance of Building Directive (EPBD) and the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) as a unique opportunity for the European Union to act “*big on big*” issues: Jobs and Growth, while putting our economies on the right track to meet the Paris Agreement.

It is clear that the Paris commitment cannot be honoured without drastically reducing energy consumption in our buildings; the EU building stock emits over one-third of our CO₂ emissions, three-quarters of our buildings are inefficient, and up to four-fifths will still be in use in 2050. We need EU wide action to drive the transformation of our inefficient building stock and make it a resilient component of the energy system of the 21st century.

Businesses, investors, citizens, governments, all need a clear 2050 vision to put the ambition level of the Paris Agreement into practice: all buildings must have a very high energy performance. This ambition of a **Nearly Zero Energy Building stock by 2050** is aligned with the European Parliaments call (EED and H&C Own Initiative Reports), the EU’s 2030 energy and climate objectives and would help accelerate the implementation of meaningful national renovation strategies around a common shared objective.

EU wide leadership and action in the construction and building sector will spur European jobs and growth (in particular for SMEs which make up 90% of the construction sector). A high level **political commitment for renovation will give industry the much needed signal and certainty to unlock investments**, in turn removing some of the market failures. Most of all, making Europe’s buildings better through a mass EU-wide renovation movement will bring invaluable benefits to the whole of society by helping deliver something that every European citizen wants and deserves: a comfortable, safe and affordable home. This is a ‘win-win’ for Europe.

As representatives of major European industries and the European building community, we believe that a **successful journey towards this vision requires the EU to lead this change**, and call on your support for an ambitious revision of the EPBD.

Yours faithfully,

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