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,
Supporting Business Organisations

Marc Lüdi
CEO
Saint-Gobain Group

Emmanuel Normant
VP Sustainable Development

Walter Pozzi
General manager

Roland Ullman
Director Industry Affairs
Building Automation bei
Siemens Switzerland Ltd

Reha Akçakaya
President of the
Flat Glass Group

Paolo Stiamiglio
Vice-President

Roman Eberstaller
CEO

Sergio Balcells
Director General and CEO

Dariusz Stachura
President and CEO

Christian Michel
COO

Stiferite

Sunpor

Synthesis Internacional

Termo Organika

Ursa

Jørgen Tang-Jensen
CEO

Velux

Heimo Scheuch
CEO

Wienerberger

Marco Mensink
Director General

Jan TE Bos
Director General

Adrian Joyce
Secretary General

Bertrand Cazes
Secretary General

Oliver Loebel
Managing Director

Adrian Joyce
Campaign Director

EuroACE

EuroACE

The European Alliance of Companies
for Energy Efficiency in Buildings

Glass For Europe

Building, Automotive, Solar Energy Glass

PU Europe

Excellence in Insulation

Renovate Europe