

# Press Release

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**For immediate release**

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## **“The EED match was a draw. But energy efficiency is still set to be on the winning side” says Eurima**

For the European Insulation Manufacturers Association, the agreement on the Energy Efficiency Directive, endorsed this afternoon by the COREPER, falls short of capitalising fully on the immediate and vast contribution that energy efficiency could bring to overcome the current economic, social and environmental crisis. However, Eurima welcomes the Directive as an important first step towards a much needed comprehensive and long-term view of making building refurbishment an integral part of the EU's overall energy strategy.

“It is clear that the current economic circumstances have led to cold feet in many capitals to engage in ambitious pro-active refurbishment investment programs, in spite of their proven financial and economic effectiveness, and the merely symbolic provisions for refurbishment of public buildings are a proof of this.” says Jan te Bos, Eurima's Director General. “Fortunately, this was partly compensated for by the clear call for far-reaching national refurbishment strategies for all buildings”.

The long-term building refurbishment strategies come together with some other positive elements, such as the link established between energy saving obligations and long-term measures, the ambitious provisions regarding energy audits and the push toward the creation of financing facilities to assist the deployment of solid energy efficiency markets.

The ball is now in Member States' courts. All these provisions need to foster new approaches, and new business models, enabling Member States to take ownership of their buildings' great saving potential and to set up policies and measures for promoting ambitious building renovation.

“This deal” continued te Bos “is timely, as it will enable a quicker uptake of the benefits of energy efficiency by all EU economies”. Energy efficiency must be at the heart of the major EU strategies for the years ahead: the growth agenda to be presented by President Barroso and Council President van Rompuy, the resource efficiency agenda pushed by Commissioner Potočník and the forthcoming strategy for sustainable competitiveness of the construction industry, to be launched by Commissioner Tajani.

This Directive will open the way for new, tailor made national policies in the near future, to be developed for ensuring that the national strategies for building renovation lead to the expected result: putting an end to the energy waste of EU buildings, while creating hundreds of thousands of local, stable jobs, saving money for EU households through reduced energy bills, and contributing to the national and European security of energy supply.

“In this opening game between hesitance and determination, the result is a draw” concluded te Bos, “but this is a long-term tournament that requires patience, but also ambition and far-reaching view. All involved actors -Governments and stakeholders alike- will have to continue to work together if we want to make it to the final!”

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