

# Press Statement

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## EFSl agreed, but will it kick-start investments in energy efficient buildings?

**Today the European Parliament adopted the first legislative piece coming from the Juncker Commission - the European Fund for Strategic investments (EFSl). The real challenge now is ensuring that the 'Energy Efficiency First' principle is fully embedded in the Governance Structure of this fund, both operationally and for the selection of projects.**

Despite the fact that a fixed proportion of the EFSl could not be earmarked for energy efficiency in buildings - this regulation is instrumental for unlocking investments in strategic infrastructure and environmentally sustainable projects, such as deep building renovation.

*"A dedicated fund for energy efficiency in buildings would have been the preferred scenario, but EU leaders can still make a difference, by truly embracing the Energy Efficiency First principle. This consideration needs to be integrated into the governance (organisational structure), making sure that energy efficiency experts are permanent members of the European Investment Advisory Hub and indeed when it come to the eligibility criteria the prospect of "energy efficiency first" must always be the first criteria to be evaluated"* commented Jan te Bos, Director General at Eurima.

Buildings account for 40% of our final energy consumption and 36% of our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In fact, buildings are the largest infrastructure in Europe and 70% of them are inefficient. This makes buildings our biggest energy wasters. If we do not support policy measures that trigger the use of the most efficient and cost-effective solution available today - insulation - we risk staying on an expensive pathway of energy dependence, compromising the creation of 2 millions of jobs in the construction sector and savings on consumers energy bills.

*"Renovation for buildings takes place every 30 years, therefore making choices that are in line with our long term objectives 80-95% CO<sub>2</sub> by 2050 needs to happen now. We need an ambitious regulatory framework including financial schemes, that help accelerate the depth and rate of building renovation in Europe - ultimately helping us shift from energy wasters into climate and money savers"* concluded Jan te Bos, Director General at Eurima.

While regulation is the first part of the puzzle, to truly transform Europe's building stock we must have accessible financial schemes, available training programmes and more awareness about the potential of insulation for the reduction of energy use for both heating and cooling.

ENDS

## Background Information

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### Eurima

Eurima is the European Insulation Manufacturers Association, representing the interests of all major mineral wool insulation producers throughout Europe. Eurima members employ over 21,000 people across Europe with the installation of insulation products accounting for an estimated 300,000 man-years.

Eurima members manufacture mineral wool insulation products. These products are used in residential and commercial buildings as well as industrial facilities. Glass and stone wool insulation secure a high level of comfort, low energy costs and minimised CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Mineral wool insulation prevents heat loss through roofs, walls, floors, pipes and boilers, reduces noise pollution and protects homes and industrial facilities from the risk of fire.

### Buildings in the EU

Buildings are responsible for the largest share of European final energy consumption (40%) and they represent the greatest potential to save energy - as 75% of buildings standing in the EU were built during periods with no, or minimal, energy-related building codes and the energy intensity of heating per floor area is two times higher than any other region of the world (except Russia).

Buildings are long-term assets expected to remain useful for 50 or more years and 75-90% of those standing today are expected to remain in use in 2050.

For further information on energy efficiency in buildings, please visit [www.eurima.org](http://www.eurima.org) or contact:

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