

Press Release

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For immediate release

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Building the way out of the crisis: Eurima welcomes Parliamentary vote on Energy Efficiency Directive

Eurima, the European Association of Insulation Manufacturers, welcomes today's vote in the Industry Committee of the European Parliament. The outcome underlines that MEPs acknowledge the crucial role of deep renovation of buildings in Europe's economic recovery and future policy on sustainable use of resources, notably energy savings. Up to the Parliament now to make sure that their colleagues at national level follow their example!

For Eurima, the most important and innovative element of this morning's vote is the call for a long-term ambitious target for the reduction of energy consumption of the EU building stock by 2050, and the call for national roadmaps to get there. This forward-looking approach, coupled with the immediate call for deep renovation of public buildings, gives perspective, creates investment security and triggers a wide, coherent and holistic strategy for the much needed transformation of the EU building stock from energy waster and polluter into a green, job creating engine for the EU.

"Building renovation is a unique tool to re-launch the EU economy, boost growth and create durable local jobs, in particular in small and medium size enterprises" said Jan te Bos, Director-General of Eurima, "today's vote allows Member States to take ownership of this potential and start tapping it with the right level of ambition, while preserving enough flexibility to design renovation programs at their own pace and taking their national circumstances into account".

If we want building renovation to go beyond business as usual, decision-makers must send a strong message both to actors in the building chain and investors. Strong provisions for building renovation, starting with the public sector, would encourage architects, contractors, industries, workers, etc, to build up the right synergies, and would allow financial institutions to design schemes allowing public or private buildings owners to get smoother access to funding mechanisms.

"Financial mechanisms are key" continued te Bos, "we need to set up the right financial engineering, allowing European Funds to enter into the game and showing public authorities that, especially in times of austerity, renovation of public buildings is a "cash machine" for them, due to the demonstrated benefits that massive job creation has for public treasuries".

Today's vote allows the negotiations between the Parliament and the Council to start immediately, sending a strong message to Member States on the need for ambition and immediate action.

"So far European capitals seem to have been paralysed by the crisis" concluded te Bos, "but it would not be the first time that a Parliamentary vote acts as a 'wake up' call for Member States, making them realize that smart and targeted action is much better than crossed arms".

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