

# Press Statement

Brussels, 16 February 2016



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Tackling EU energy dependency starts with stopping energy waste in buildings

**Today 16 February 2016, Europe is wasting half its energy to heat and cool old and leaky buildings. Tackling Europe's energy dependency needs more than the diversification of supplies and routes - the EU must sort out its leaky buildings. This is the message from Eurima on the publication of today's 'Sustainable Energy Security Package'.**

*"Buildings are Europe's largest single user of energy so it is encouraging that the Commission took the decision to publish a Heating and Cooling Strategy as part of today's package. What is needed next are concrete proposals for an EU wide building renovation plan, ideally with targets otherwise the strategy wastes a unique opportunity to properly reduce European dependence on energy imports",* said Jan te Bos, Director General Eurima.

Two thirds of Europe's buildings were constructed with either none of limited energy performance requirements, most of this energy is leaking through the fabric of the buildings.

*"These buildings aren't going anywhere...unless we take action now we will continue to waste billions of euros of in importing unnecessary energy when we could be pouring this money back into our economies through building renovation programmes",* added Jan te Bos.

To meet our 2050 decarbonisation goals, an ambitious and coherent strategy to maximise the potential in the building sector is needed. EURIMA argues that the EU should build on comprehensive roadmaps anchored in clear targets and milestones and reducing the H&C energy demand through maximising the gains of the building envelope (insulation, windows, air-tightness etc.). Doing so, will safeguard against any potential changes on the energy supply side, prevent the lock-in of voluminous portions of savings, avoids having oversized heating and cooling distribution system ending up as stranded assets and ensure the most suitable low carbon energy supply options for the building.

*"The Paris Agreement has made clear that we must accelerate the transition in the building sector in order to keep on track with our decarbonisation goals. This will create sustainable growth and jobs, and ultimately our citizens are those who want to leave in places which offer low energy bills as well as comfortable and healthy environments. Our industry is ready to deliver for the deep renovation of our building stock but this requires solid commitment and planning by all parties, at EU, national and local levels.* Commented Pascal Eveillard, President of Eurima.

With this important political acknowledgement to tackle buildings and the H&C energy demand - the next and perhaps even more important step is deliver on our vision of a 'nearly zero energy building' stock by 2050!

- See European Commission H&C Strategy [here](#)
- See European Commission infographic on role of insulation for reducing H&C [here](#)

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