

PRESS RELEASE

The anti-stress formula: Building Renovation

Building sector industries call on EU leaders to draw lessons from the risk of energy shortage and adopt an ambitious binding target on energy efficiency

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Yesterday (16th October 2014), the European Commission published the results of the so-called “stress tests” evaluating the resilience of many EU countries to possible gas supply shortages this winter. Some of the results are alarming: According to the Commission, a prolonged supply disruption would mean that many EU member States will miss at least 60% of the gas they need. The Commission starkly concludes that: *“This means that even private households could be left out in the cold”*.

The building sector industry associations Eurima, Glass for Europe, EuroACE, PU Europe and the Renovate Europe Campaign regret that the recommendations made by the Commission in order to solve this situation are not accompanied by structural solutions, including the most important part of the EU’s energy infrastructure: its buildings, which according to the IEA hold 80% of untapped energy savings potential.

“Much emphasis is being put on where the imported gas comes from and how it is brought from one country to another” said Oliver Loebel, Secretary General of PU Europe *“but little attention is given to the actual use we make of our energy imports: Recent research has shown that 61% of EU’s gas imports are destined to our (largely inefficient) buildings. Ambitious building renovation policies would cut imports for the sector by almost two thirds in only 15 years, and reduce it to zero by 2050”*.

“Today’s Communication” said Bertrand Cazes, Secretary General of Glass for Europe *“puts the spotlight on market-based instruments, price signals or use of storage. It is incomprehensible that the communication is silent on the uncomfortable but plain truth: we are wasting too much energy. If Europe has other ambitions than simply ‘managing energy shortage’ in the future, then it is urgent that we realize massive savings in our building stock”*.

The result of these “stress tests” will feed the crucial discussions to be held next week at the European Summit of Heads of State and Government, where the long-awaited decision on the EU Climate & Energy Strategy for 2030 is expected to be taken.

“This should be a wake-up call for EU leaders” added Jan te Bos, Director-General of Eurima *“underlining the need to agree an ambitious, binding target for energy efficiency coupled with a clear call for the Commission to put its regulatory efforts on those sectors - such as buildings - with higher potential for energy savings through cost-effective measures. Ambitious building renovation strategies are a structural and long-lasting solution to avoid future emergencies, but they must be initiated now!”*

“EU leaders must act responsibly” concluded Adrian Joyce, Secretary General of EuroACE and Renovate Europe Campaign Director *“and adopt ambitious, common sense measures to protect all EU citizens from emergency situations such as the one we’re currently experiencing, and putting the EU unequivocally on the path to deep renovation of the building stock in the EU by 2050”*.

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Note to Editors

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

The **European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EuroACE)** represents Europe's leading companies involved with the manufacture, distribution and installation of energy savings goods and services for buildings. With a total turnover of 140 billion euros and employing 328,000 people, the EuroACE mission is to help Europe move towards a more sustainable pattern of energy use in buildings.

Glass for Europe is the trade association for Europe's manufacturers of building, automotive and solar-energy glass, all derived from flat glass. Glass products not only provide light, comfort, style, security and safety, they are also essential to energy-efficient buildings, houses and transport. Glass for Europe represents five multinational companies accounting for nearly 90% of the EU's flat glass production: AGC Glass Europe, NSG Group, Saint-Gobain Glass, Sisecam and Guardian.

PU-Europe is the European association representing the rigid polyurethane insulation industry. Its products help to save energy in a wide variety of applications in buildings, district heating, cooling and refrigeration, and industrial systems. PU-Europe members have a total turnover of Euro 4 billion and provide 18,000 jobs.

The **Renovate Europe Campaign (REC)**, launched in 2011 is an initiative of EuroACE, the European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings. It is the only EU-wide campaign that focusses exclusively on ambitious renovation of the building stock in the EU and is the voice that 'bangs the drum' for energy efficient renovations, taking a technology neutral, integrated and holistic approach to energy efficient renovations.