

OPEN LETTER TO THE 27 EU ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS

Brussels, 02 November 2009

Re: The recast of the EPBD should not overlook the huge potential of Europe's existing buildings

Dear Minister, Dear Secretary of State,

As major players from the building chain, we¹ call on you to conclude, ahead of the start of COP15, an ambitious recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) that focuses on existing as well as new buildings.

Europe has the ambition to be a global leader in promoting energy efficiency, but in order to bring this ambition to fruition, EU institutions need to create the right regulatory and policy framework for industry and the design professions to provide solutions that will reduce energy consumption in Europe's building stock, and particularly in households. Despite signs of improvement, Europe's buildings remain a large energy consumer (40% of final energy use), of which too much is wasted in heating and cooling, and a known carbon dioxide (CO₂) emitter (36% of EU CO₂ emissions).

The required technology and skills exist within the sector, leaving only the need for a political commitment from the EU to drive the implementation of European wide measures that will pave the way to the greening of our buildings. Your leadership in bringing forward an ambitious recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive is necessary in order to achieve this potential. The recast Directive has the potential to almost singlehandedly put Europe on a truly sustainable path by providing the right combination of mandatory requirements and incentives.

We would particularly like to highlight how critical it is to harness the huge potential of existing buildings in the recast. By far the majority of energy used in buildings is consumed in the existing building stock. Given that new buildings represent, on average, an annual increase of just 1% of the building stock and that the renovation cycle for existing buildings is not less than 25 years, there is no time to lose in implementing building regulations containing very high requirements in energy efficiency for both new and existing buildings of all sizes. This is critical for Europe if it is to achieve the ambitious, yet achievable, target of reducing CO₂ emissions by 60–80% in 2050 compared to 1990 levels.

¹ Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), COGEN Europe, European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EuroAce), European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ECEEE), European Insulation Manufacturers Association (Eurima), International Union of Tenants (IUT) and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)

Therefore we request that the recast of the EPBD includes at least:


- An obligation for Member States to fix **targets for 2020** (with intermediate targets for 2015) **aiming to significantly improve the energy performance of at least part of the building stock**;
- The setting of **minimum energy performance requirements for building components** such as windows, exterior doors, roofs, walls and insulation systems, both in new buildings and when replaced in existing buildings;
- An **obligation for Member States to amend their building codes**, no later than 30 June 2015, in line with the cost-optimal levels that will result from the Commission's benchmarking methodology;
- The **use of national and community funds and of appropriate financing mechanisms to help EU citizens** with the refurbishment of their homes and to develop the workforce required to deliver this; and
- **Large scale public and private investment in the renovation and retrofitting of social housing**, helping fight climate change and fuel poverty in a single stroke.

If Europe wants to be at the forefront of the fight against climate change whilst supporting the development of a low carbon economy, the EPBD recast is a golden opportunity. We therefore urge you to support an ambitious agreement which will demonstrate the right level of ambition for Europe ahead of the negotiations at COP15.

Yours sincerely,



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President
ACE



Fiona Riddoch
Managing Director
COGEN Europe



Rick Wilberforce
President
EuroACE



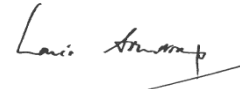
Nils Borg
Executive Director
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Jan te Bos
Director General
Eurima



Sven Carlsson
President
IUT



Louis Armstrong
CEO
RICS



The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) is the organisation representing the architectural profession at European level. Its headquarters and Secretariat are located in Brussels and its growing membership consists of Member Organisations, which are the nationally representative regulatory and professional bodies from all European Union (EU) Member States, Accession States, Switzerland and Norway. Through them, it represents the interests of about 480,000 architects. The principal function of the ACE is to monitor developments at EU level, seeking to influence those areas of EU Policy and legislation that have an impact on architectural practice and on the overall quality and sustainability of the built environment. More information at www.ace-cae.org



COGEN Europe is Europe's umbrella organisation representing the interests of the cogeneration industry (also referred to as combined heat and power or CHP), users of the technology and promoting its benefits in the EU and the wider Europe. The association is backed by the key players in the industry including gas and electricity companies, ESCOs, equipment suppliers, consultancies, national promotion organisations, financial and other service companies. More information at www.cogeneurope.eu



The European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (eceee) is Europe's largest membership-based NGO promoting energy efficiency. It offers membership for both individuals and organisations. The goal of eceee is to stimulate energy efficiency through information exchange and co-operation. To facilitate this, eceee provides an information service through its website and e-mail newsletter, arranges workshops and conferences, and takes active part in the European Policy making process. One of eceee's principal events is the Summer Study, held for five days every odd year in the early summer. eceee and its Summer Study offer governments, industry, research institutes and citizen organisations a unique resource of evidence-based knowledge and access to reliable information. More information at www.eceee.org



The European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EuroACE) was formed by Europe's leading companies involved with the manufacture, distribution and installation of energy saving goods and services for buildings. EuroACE members have a total turnover of 140 billion euros and employ some 328,000 people. The mission of EuroACE is to work together with the European institutions to help Europe move towards a more sustainable pattern of energy use in buildings, thereby contributing to the EU's commitments on carbon emission reductions, job creation and energy security. More information at www.euroace.org



Eurima is the European Insulation Manufacturers Association and represents the interests of all major mineral wool insulation producers throughout Europe. Eurima members employ over 20,000 people across Europe with the installation of insulation products accounting for an estimated 300,000 man-years. In manufacturing mineral wool, members of Eurima help to achieve important social and environmental goals: saving energy, minimising pollution, combating noise, reducing the risk of fire and creating European jobs. More information at www.eurima.org



IUT is a Non Governmental Organisation, founded in 1926 in Zürich, Switzerland, with the purpose of safeguarding the interests of tenants. Today, October 2009, IUT has got 58 member associations in 46 countries, in all regions of the world. IUT considers housing to be a fundamental right in every society. Housing therefore needs to be addressed locally, nationally and internationally. Adequate housing is one of the safeguards for peace and security and a fundamental pillar in all stable societies in Europe and elsewhere in the world. IUT strives towards fair, healthy and affordable housing in a safe and sound residential environment. IUT head office is in Stockholm, Sweden and with an EU liaison office in Brussels, Belgium. More information at www.iut.nu



RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) is the largest organisation for professionals in the field of property, land, construction and related environmental issues worldwide. With 91,000 qualified members, it is the leading source of property related knowledge, providing independent and impartial advice to governments and global organisations. More information at www.rics.org