



Brussels, 30 August 2023

## EPBD: European citizens, SMEs and the industry request finalising the negotiations as a top priority

Dear Commission President Ursula von der Leyen,  
 dear Commissioner Kadri Simson,  
 dear Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič,  
 dear President of the European Council, Charles Michel,  
 dear Energy Ministers of EU Member States, dear Ambassadors,  
 dear Members of the European Parliament,

We, representatives of European citizens, civil society, cities, SMEs, and industry, support the adoption of new, ambitious requirements for the energy performance of buildings. They will accelerate the decarbonisation of the building stock in the EU and are critical pillars of the Fit-For-55 package. However, an agreement must be reached during this mandate. It is critical for Europe's business predictability, our resilience to extreme weather events and the continent's energy security.

**We call on you to prioritise the EPBD to secure a quality agreement by the end of this year. A deal can be reached under the Spanish Council Presidency.**

**The construction sector, consumers, and investors need regulatory certainty.** The construction sector is forecasted to enter a recession, faces volatile material prices, and lacks skilled workers. Now, more than ever, architects, home builders, in particular SMEs, and the renovation supply chain must plan products and company developments, including training and hiring strategies for high-quality, local jobs. Likewise, households and companies must plan investments in buildings. The EPBD defines predictable, progressive pathways that will stabilise the construction sector over the coming years.

**Efficient, energy-generating buildings reduce energy bills, protect citizens' health, and improve working conditions.** Today, many European citizens freeze in winter and struggle to keep cool in summer, fearing high energy costs. In the face of steadily increasing temperatures and extreme weather events, the EPBD will define a pathway to reasonable comfort levels in buildings for all. It combines mandatory renovation requirements with financing, technical assistance, and social safeguards. This will reduce cost exposure for citizens, thereby reducing energy poverty.

**Efficient, smart buildings are pivotal to EU energy independence.** Building renovations will lower energy needs and digital solutions will optimise energy consumption by matching demand with EU renewable production. This will allow citizens, administrations and companies to liberate themselves from imported fossil fuels and high energy prices, lowering inflation and increasing competitiveness.

**Smart, flexible and efficient buildings empower citizens and allow the integration of more renewables, EVs, and heat pumps into the grid.** Electricity grid constraints already threaten new connections of EV chargers and heat pumps and lead to curtailment, i.e. waste, of renewable energy. Flexible generation, storage and consumption are cost-effective solutions that relieve stress on grids. This requires rolling out smart energy management solutions in buildings, as supported by the EPBD.

**Energy renovations are an industrial success story.** Europe's industries produce building energy management and technical systems, EV charge-points, solar systems, energy efficiency solutions and heat pumps, contributing to high-quality built environments. The EPBD is the industrial policy of the EU's construction and smart power industries. Ambitious, clear rules are going to incentivise innovation and strengthen Europe's international competitiveness while addressing emissions throughout a building's life cycle.

We are at your disposal to meet and elaborate on the points above:

**FIEC:** European Construction Industry Federation

**EBC:** European Builders Confederation

**PU Europe:** Polyurethane (PUR/PIR) Insulation Industry

**Eurima** - European Insulation Manufacturers Association

**Sustainability Embassy Romania**

**SolarPower Europe**

**EASE:** The European Association for Storage of Energy

**smarten:** Smart Energy Europe

**AVERE:** The European Association for Electromobility

**WindEurope**

**Eurelectric**

**DIGITALEUROPE**

**eu.bac:** European Building Automation and Controls Association

**ZVEI e. V.:** Verband der Elektro- und Digitalindustrie

**ChargeUp Europe**

**eceee:** European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy

**ACE-CAE:** Architects' Council of Europe

**ECI:** European Copper Institute

**EuropeOn:** Electrical Contractors Association

**Solar Heat Europe**

**HHPA:** European Heat Pump Association

**Energy Cities**

**EuroACE** - Energy Efficient Buildings

**The Coalition for ENERGY SAVINGS**

**European Alliance to SAVE ENERGY**

**Skift – Business Climate Leaders**

**BCSD Portugal:** Business Council for Sustainable Development

**SEFA:** The Sustainable Energy Finance Association

**ItaSIF:** Forum per la Finanza Sostenibile

**Bond Beter Leefmilieu:** sustainable organisations Flanders

**CER:** Sustainable Business Network

**CLG Europe:** Corporate Leaders Groups