

FIEC WELCOMES THE EU COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL FOR MORE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CARBON REMOVAL

The revision of the Energy Performance in Building Directive (EPBD) is a further move to achieve EU ambitious zero-emission goals for buildings.

The **construction** sector has become a key player in the implementation of a roadmap for the **EU Green Deal** and contributes to achieving a **carbon-neutral** economy by 2050 and the EU 2030 climate targets. The legislative initiatives related to the **Fit for 55** package include the **Renovation Wave** and the **revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)**. These dossiers are high on FIEC's agenda.

As follow up on the decisions adopted in July 2021, last week the European Commission made a **new step** to further adjust its energy and climate policy strategy with new **proposals to update** and adapt the current framework to more ambitious goals. The overall aim is to align the **rules** for the energy performance and decarbonise the EU's building stock by 2050.

The EPBD revision in brief

FIEC has been supporting a revision of the EPBD that takes a series of requests into account and acknowledges that the proposal will facilitate the renovation of homes, schools, hospitals, offices and other buildings across Europe to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy bills. A newly introduced tool is the mandatory **Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS)** for existing buildings, which will be based on the reformed **Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs)**.

In other words, this translates that ten of millions of buildings across the EU would require to be **renovated by 2033** at the latest: a process involving **SMEs** and **citizens** in the first place. But also, the **public sector** where a faster reaction will be harnessed to ensure that new public buildings will already turn **zero-emission** as of **2027**. In concrete figures, new EU-level minimum energy performance **standards** are proposed, requiring the **worst-performing 15%** of the building stock of each Member State **to be upgraded** from the EPC's grade G to **at least grade F** by 2027 for non-residential buildings and 2030 for residential buildings.

Such efforts call however for a consequent considerable **financial** and technical **support**, as the main expected target will be the worst-performing buildings (mostly owned and occupied with limited financial mean).

While the focus of the proposal lies on improving the energy efficiency of the building stock, first steps are taken to address **whole-life cycle carbon emissions** from buildings. As of 2030, the life-cycle **Global Warming Potential (GWP)** has to be calculated for new buildings.



Having advocated for a staged approach, when it comes to whole-life carbon emissions, FIEC welcomes this step. “*Before setting specific CO2 thresholds for buildings, we need **solid data** and a better picture of the **added value** of such an approach. Let’s not forget that embodied emissions are already regulated to a large extent*”, says Domenico Campogrande, Director General of FIEC.

Conclusions

FIEC will keep liaising with the EU and its stakeholders and be actively involved in the **next steps** of the revision. A continued dialogue has the common purpose of striving for the smooth transition for enterprises, operators and global players in the construction industry.

FIEC has started working on its position on the recast of the EPBD. The paper will be disseminated and published early next year.

The EU **Commission’s** EPBD **legislative proposal** is accessible at this [link](#) along with the relevant published [Annexes](#).

About FIEC

The *European Construction Industry Federation* gathers **33 national associations** from **29 countries**: a wide-ranging **membership** that represents construction enterprises of all sizes active in building and civil engineering.

FIEC stands out as the **voice of construction** industry toward the EU institutions and is the official **Social Partner** for employers involved in the *European Sectoral Social Dialogue* "Construction". In 2020, construction activity in the EU represented **10,6% of GDP**, 6,2% of total employment, with almost **13 million workers** and more than 3 million companies, 95% of which have less than 20 employees.