



EUROPEAN POLICIES TOWARDS A DECARBONISED BUILDING STOCK

Workshop on Electrical Safety and deployment of heat pumps, photovoltaic panels and charging points in buildings

Marco Morini, DG ENER B.3 – Buildings and products

POLICY CONTEXT

- **Climate Target Plan (2020):** the Commission proposed to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 level (previously 40%)
- **Renovation Wave (2020)** aims at doubling renovation rates by 2030 and foster deep renovation
- **Fit for 55% (2021):** set of proposals to make the EU's climate, energy, transport and taxation policies fit for the revised climate goals





REPOWEREU

A roadmap to reduce the dependence on Russian fossil fuels and fast forward the energy transition without leaving anyone behind



Energy saving and energy efficiency



Diversification of our energy supplies



Massive acceleration of investment in renewables



Several flagship projects directly linked to buildings, such as the **Rooftop Solar Initiative** (as part of the EU Solar Energy Strategy) and **doubling the installation of heat pumps**.

BARRIERS TO DEPLOYMENT REMAIN: HEAT PUMP ACTION PLAN IN PREPARATION

- The decarbonization of the building sector requires not only **increased building renovation level**, but that each fossil fuel boiler that is to be replaced is being replaced by a renewable heating solution.
- Heat pumps either as **individual system** or as **part of district heating** will be the main heating technology in the future.
- The **transition to heat pumps** will be a complex transition with many technical issues to be solved locally and important implications for citizens.



BARRIERS TO DEPLOYMENT REMAIN: HEAT PUMP ACTION PLAN IN PREPARATION

Focus areas

- 1. Heat Pump Accelerator:** a partnership of the Commission, Member States, financing institutions, training providers, and the HP sector
- 2. Communication** on available Heat Pump solutions and a dedicated **Heat Pumps Skills Partnership**
- 3. Legislative work:** strong policy signal for the market
- 4. More accessible financing** (e.g. mapping of financing options)

Want to know more? [Heat pumps \(europa.eu\)](https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/energy-efficiency/heat-pumps_en)
https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/energy-efficiency/heat-pumps_en

CROSS-SECTORAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The Commission is committed to boosting professionals' and workers' skills in the renovation sector inter alia by working with Member States and Industry through:



- ✓ **European Year of Skills 2023**
- ✓ **EU Skills agenda** (5-year plan)
- ✓ **Pact for skills**
- ✓ **EU large-scale skills partnership**, part of the EU Solar Energy Strategy
- ✓ **Funding** is also available in the forms of grants through Erasmus+ and the LIFE Clean Energy Transition (BUILD UP Skills initiative)
- ✓ **Investment and Reforms** under national RRP + REPowerEU Chapters

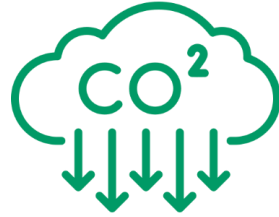
OBJECTIVES OF THE EPBD RECAST

Twofold objective:

- Contribute to **reducing buildings' GHG emissions and final energy consumption by 2030**
- Provide a **long-term vision** for buildings and ensure an adequate contribution to achieving **climate neutrality in 2050**



PRIORITY AREAS OF THE EPBD RECAST



Renovation

- National Building Renovation Plans
- Minimum Energy Performance Standards
- Energy Performance Certificates
- Renovation passports for individual buildings

Decarbonisation

- Zero-emission buildings as new standard for new buildings and 2050 vision for building stock
- Consideration of whole life cycle carbon
- Phasing out of incentives for fossil fuels and new legal basis for national bans

Modernisation & system integration

- Infrastructure for sustainable mobility
- EPC digitalisation & databases
- Smart Readiness Indicator

Financing

- Public and private financing & technical assistance
- Deep renovation standard
- Priority to vulnerable households and people affected by energy poverty

DECARBONIZATION / ELECTRIFICATION

- **From Nearly Zero-Energy to Zero Emission Buildings** powered by on-site renewables, efficient district heating, renewable energy communities
- **Strengthened requirements for recharging points for e-vehicles** and mandatory bicycle parking in new buildings, including on infrastructure
- **Mandatory solar energy installations** for all new buildings and for some categories of existing buildings (**REPowerEU Amendment, Article 9a**)
 - by 31 December 2026, on all new public and commercial buildings with useful floor area larger than 250 sqm;
 - by 31 December 2027, on all existing public and commercial buildings with useful floor area larger than 250 sqm; and
 - by 31 December 2029, on all new residential buildings.
- **Phasing out of incentives for fossil fuels and new legal basis for national bans**

FIRE SAFETY AND ELETRIFICATION

- In line with the subsidiarity principle, safety is a **regulatory competence of Member States** and addressed in national/regional building codes
- Safety is not the primary objective of the EPBD and not within its direct scope, but the EPBD recast took an opportunity to **give visibility** to the issues of safety in buildings
- It is important to address fire and electrical safety related to the green transition, the role of the Commission is to work with Member States on **skills and competences** and the **exchange of best practices**

FIRE SAFETY IN THE EPBD RECAST PROPOSAL

- i. New buildings:** address fire safety
- ii. Existing buildings:** address fire safety in major renovations
 - A deep renovation for energy performance purposes is a prime opportunity to address other aspects including fire safety
- iii. Guidance and training** for those responsible to implement the EPBD: may address fire safety
- iv. Template for building renovation plans** (Annex II): policies and measures for the increase of fire safety

The European Parliament proposed several provisions for fire safety and electrical installations

FINAL REMARKS

- Fire safety **knowledge and competencies** ought to be strengthened and integrated further in the design, construction, renovation and maintenance phases of buildings.
- The new elements of the EPBD, particularly the introduction of mandatory minimum performance standards (MEPS), the various funding opportunities, attention to energy poverty and affordable housing, the need for skilled workforce, etc., are very relevant for fire safety too.
- EC will issue **guidance documents about the proper implementation of the EPBD** where it can introduce fire-related information and recommendation.
- **Communication and visibility** of fire safety issues are key elements: easy to access information to inhabitants on actions for preventing and reacting to fires, training of professionals and skills development, development and spread of good practices.



Thank you