

Policy Meets Property

A Combined Perspective on Energy Efficiency in Buildings

Wednesday 19 June 2019



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Opening Statement for Panel Session:

Combining perspectives to achieve cost-effective decarbonisation of buildings

*My statement represents the view of the contractors in the EU:
<check against delivery>*

We believe that collaboration with other industries in the construction ecosystem should be the basis for working towards decarbonising the built environment.

Bearing in mind that *whatever* we do, we always need to respect the demands of our clients, the specific actions we can take are as follows:

- Apply the measures in the recently revised Energy Performance in Buildings Directive.
- Use materials responsibly, including innovative, low carbon materials (including low carbon concrete whenever possible).
- Source materials locally to avoid long road and rail transportation of materials.

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Here I would like to point out the *possible contradiction* with the Construction Products Regulation, which aims to facilitate the internal market in construction products.

Sourcing materials *locally* means that there may be **no cross border trade**, except for cases where companies and/or construction sites are located in small countries, or close to geographical borders.

- Support the use of renewable energy and other solutions such as district heating and cooling.
- Keep the pressure on national governments to actively promote and support the renovation of existing buildings.
- Move towards industrialised processes where appropriate, to achieve productivity gains and the most effective use of machinery.
We should bear in mind that ***not all current innovative solutions will be widely adopted.***
- Increase electrification on the construction site
– **where feasible and when a suitable power source is available.**
- Move towards digital construction as fast as possible, to eliminate errors and the need for emission generating re-work.
- Finally, FIEC encourages contractors and other industries in the ecosystem to collaborate with researchers and participate in the future Horizon Europe programme, to find new ways of achieving decarbonisation.