

Topic: Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) & Renovation Wave

Brief description and main aims:

The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) is the EU's main legislative instrument promoting the improvement of the energy performance of buildings within the EU. It is currently being revised with the aim to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions and final energy consumption in the building sector by 2030, and to set a long-term vision for an EU building sector that is climate-neutral by 2050. In this respect, the recast EPBD aims to increase the rate and depth of renovations of energy-efficient buildings, improve information on energy performance and sustainability of buildings; guarantee that all new buildings meet ambitious minimum energy performance standards; and ensure that all buildings in future are in line with the 2050 climate neutrality requirements. The recast EPBD builds on the "Renovation Wave" strategy of 2020, which aims to at least double the annual renovation rate in the EU from 1% to 2% by 2030.

Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

Buildings are responsible for approximately 40% of energy consumption and 36% of CO₂ emissions in the EU. Currently, about 35% of the EU's buildings are over 50 years old and almost 75% of the building stock is energy-inefficient, while only 0.4-1.2% of the building stock is renovated each year. Therefore, the renovation of existing buildings has the potential to lead to significant energy savings. Investments in energy efficiency can stimulate the construction industry. SMEs would particularly benefit from a boosted renovation market.

FIEC adopted its position paper on the European Commission's proposal in March 2022. On 18 May, the European Commission proposed to re-amend the recast EPBD proposal by introducing a so-called "solar mandate" for certain building types and for all residential buildings by 2029 as part of its "REPowerEU plans", a legislative package aiming at making the EU more independent vis-à-vis Russian fossil fuels.

In the European Parliament, the 'lead' rapporteur in the Commission on Industry, Research and Energy submitted his draft report to the Parliament in early June 2020, including amendments that went well beyond the Commission proposal. FIEC submitted amendments to the European Parliament at the end of June. In October 2020, the vote in the responsible committee was postponed and is currently scheduled for 29 November after several Members of the European Parliament threatened to vote against the EPBD.

In the Council, the Czech EU Council Presidency intended to reach a common position on 25th October between the 27 Member States. This so-called "general approach" would allow the Council to enter into interinstitutional negotiations on the EPBD. These decisive negotiations between EU institutions are expected to start in December 2022 or early 2023.

Actions and key dates:

- 14/10/2020** – FIEC position on the Renovation Wave communication
- 02/02/2021** – FIEC position paper on the Renovation Wave published
- 15/07/2021** – FIEC position on the revision of the EPBD
- 14/12/2021** – Legislative proposal published
- 21/12/2021** – FIEC press release on proposal for recast EPBD
- 31/03/2022** – FIEC position paper on the recast EPBD proposal
- 18/05/2022** – REPowerEU plan of the European Commission published
- 29/06/2022** – FIEC amendments to the European Commission’s legislative proposal
- 14/09/2022** – FIEC participation in Stakeholder Conference on the Renovation Wave
- 25/10/2022** – Meeting with the European Parliament
- 25/10/2022** – General approach in the Council under Czech Presidency (expected)
- 12/12/2022** – Plenary vote expected in the European Parliament

