

## Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) / “Fit-for-55”

### Brief description and main aims:

The *Energy Performance of Buildings Directive* (EPBD) is the EU's main legislative instrument for improving the energy performance of buildings in the EU. It was revised with the aim of significantly reducing *Greenhouse Gas* (GHG) emissions and final energy consumption in buildings by 2030, and to set a long-term vision for a climate-neutral EU building stock by 2050. Some specific goals of the recast EPBD are to increase the rate and depth of energy-efficient building renovations, improve information about the energy performance and sustainability of buildings, ensure that all new buildings meet ambitious *Minimum Energy Performance Standards* (MEPS), and to ensure that all buildings will be in line with the 2050 climate neutrality target. The EPBD sets minimum requirements for non-residential and residential buildings with a “worst first” approach, intending to address renovations of the worst-performing buildings first. It also obliges Member States to phase out fossil fuel-based boilers by 2040 and to define a pathway to progressively reduce the life cycle *Global Warming Potential* (GWP).

The EPBD recast builds on the *EU Renovation Wave* strategy and aims to double the annual renovation rate. It is part of the *Fit-for-55* package to reduce 2030 GHG emissions in the EU by 55 percent.

### Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

Buildings account for about 40 percent of the total energy consumption and 36 percent of GHG emissions in the EU. Currently, about 35 percent of EU buildings are older than 50 years, and almost 75 percent of the building stock is energy inefficient. The annual renovation rate is stagnating at about 0.4 - 1.2 percent. Therefore, the renovation of the existing building stock has the potential to lead to significant energy savings. Investments in energy efficiency can boost the construction industry, and SMEs in particular would benefit from a stimulated renovation market. In addition, the recast EPBD sets out conditions for calculating the *Whole-Life Carbon* (WLC) emissions / Life-cycle GWP of new buildings. As part of the *EU Renovation Wave*, the European Commission underlined its commitment to developing a roadmap to 2050 for reducing the WLC emissions of buildings.

The *Fit-for-55* package has great potential for the construction industry, but it will also have a far-reaching impact on the construction supply chain, as the proposed legislation affects the entire life-cycle of buildings. A summary and analysis of the *Fit-for-55* package and the *European Green Deal* is available on the FIEC Website and Intranet. FIEC welcomed the *Fit-for-55* package and EPBD recast. However, in the context of the intensifying housing crisis, FIEC repeatedly warned about the high up-front costs of renovation, the lack of skilled labour and the impact of the EPBD on construction costs.

FIEC monitors the transposition in Member States and remains involved in the EPBD Comitology.

### Actions and key dates:

- 15/12/2021** → European Commission proposal for a recast EPBD (repealing Directive 2010/31)
- 30/03/2022** → [FIEC Position Paper](#) on the recast EPBD
- 14/02/2023** → [FIEC Reaction](#) to European Parliament position on EPBD proposal
- 30/08/2023** → FIEC co-signs wide cross-sectoral call for swift EPBD adoption
- 07/12/2023** → Trilogue negotiations between the co-legislators (European Parliament, Member States) and the European Commission: Provisional agreement reached
- 18/01/2024** → FIEC participation in the “*Renovation Week*” of the Belgian EU Council Presidency
- 12/04/2024** → [FIEC Press Release](#) on the final adoption of the new EPBD
- 08/05/2024** → Publication in the *EU Official Journal*: [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1275](#) enters into force on 28 May 2024 (Deadline for transposition into national law: 29 May 2026)
- 20/05/2025** → FIEC attends the [High-Level Stakeholder Dialogue on Energy Efficiency](#) with the Commissioner for Energy & Housing Dan Jørgensen
- 30/06/2025** → EPBD Implementation Package and Guidance for Member States published by the European Commission