

President Jean-Claude Juncker
Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič
Berlaymont
Rue de la Loi, 200
1040 - Bruxelles

Brussels, 30th January 2015

Re: The Energy Union – Spotlight on energy renovation of buildings

Dear President Juncker
Dear Vice-President Šefčovič,

We write to you ahead of the important debate of the College of Commissioners on the Energy Union in order to urge you to **build the future over-arching framework of our energy policy on solid ground**, thus to firmly place **actions to stop the huge energy waste in our existing building stock** at the core of the concept.

Energy efficiency is our single greatest indigenous source of energy, as pointed out by the International Energy Agency¹ and the sector with the highest untapped potential to deliver that energy is our existing buildings. This **clean, inexpensive source of energy** can be exploited anywhere across the EU with available technologies and with less time than it takes to decide on new energy supply options.

Furthermore, when sourcing energy through ambitious energy efficiency improvements of our building stock, significant, established multiple benefits^{2,3,4} arise for jobs, economic growth, public finances, comfort, improved health⁵, well-being and productivity. By setting up an ambitious energy renovation plan for our buildings, the energy consumption of the sector could be reduced by as much as 54% by 2030 and its dependence on imported gas cut by as much as 61%. At the same time, an average of 19 **new, local, direct jobs** can be created⁶ for every €1 million invested.

For these reasons we urge you to ensure that the Energy Union delivers a forward-looking framework that is supportive of the EU goals for jobs, growth and competitiveness and that it answers the request from Member States to prioritise action on energy efficiency in key sectors. Citizens expect the EU to take the initiative on **better regulation that delivers big results on big issues** and that improves their lives. Action on the leaky, wasteful buildings of the EU delivers all of this in one policy decision.

The time is right to make ambitious energy renovation a big EU policy and financing priority and therefore the Energy Union should provide the signal that a coherent policy framework needs to be developed to ensure that this is realised. This goes together with preparing for an ambitious review of building related legislative

¹ See: <http://www.iea.org/newsroomandevents/pressreleases/2013/october/name,43788,en.html>

² See the IEA Report entitled *Capturing the Multiple Benefits of Energy Efficiency* at:
<http://www.iea.org/topics/energyefficiency/energyefficiencyiea/multiplebenefitsofenergyefficiency/>

³ See the Copenhagen Economics report entitled *Multiple Benefits of Investing in Energy Efficiency Renovations* at:
<http://www.renovate-europe.eu/Multiple-Benefits-Study>

⁴ See new report from the Global Buildings Performance Network on *Monetary Benefits of Ambitious Building Energy Policies* at:
http://www.gbpn.org/sites/default/files/Low_C_MBABEP.pdf?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter%2011%20-%20New%20Report%20Quantifies%20the%20Global%20Return%20on%20Investment%20of%20Ambitious%20Building%20Energy%20Performance%20Policies

⁵ Fraunhofer, Dec.2014: *White Paper - Towards an identification of European indoor environments' impact on health and performance - homes and schools*

⁶ See: **How many jobs?** http://www.euroace.org/PublicDocumentDownload.aspx?Command=Core_Download&EntryId=433

tools, e.g. empowering the renovation strategies of **Article 4 of the Energy Efficiency Directive** as ready to implement strategies for renovating national building stocks.

This also calls for **coordination between the various EU initiatives** that will have an impact on growth and jobs. For example the **European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI)** must also prioritise ambitious energy renovation of our buildings e.g. through ring-fencing dedicated funds for energy efficiency and thus support the EU Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 in its capacity to unlock private capital by de-risking investment in energy efficiency.

Not least, the **planned governance structure should focus on strengthening the enforcement and implementation of buildings related directives**, thus giving Member States and the construction sector a further boost in achieving real, tangible results for the benefit of all.

In closing, I invite you and your services to contact our office in order to further discuss the role that addressing the huge energy waste in our existing buildings can play in lifting the EU to a better economic, social and environmental future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Joyce'.

Adrian Joyce

Renovate Europe Campaign Director

Note: This letter has been copied to:

First Vice-President Timmermans
Vice-President Katainen
Commissioner Cañete
Commissioner Thyssen
Commissioner Crețu
Commissioner Bieńkowska
Commissioner Moscovici
Secretary General Day

Additional information about the Renovate Europe Campaign

The Renovate Europe Campaign (REC) is a political communications campaign that was established in 2011. It brings together companies and associations that are convinced of the huge benefits to the EU economy and society of reducing the energy demand of existing buildings. In fact its objectives are to:

1. Reduce the energy demand of the EU building stock by 80% by 2050 as compared to 2005
2. Increase the rate of renovation in the EU from the current level of about 1% to reach 3% by 2020 and maintain that rate until 2050
3. Encourage the formulation and implementation of an effective long-term policy and legal framework for the achievement of the headline objectives of the REC

There are currently (January 2015) 36 partner companies and associations actively engaged in the work of the REC. These include 14 national partners from 11 Member States.

Since its inception, the REC has been active in building knowledge and awareness of the potential of the existing building stock in the EU to significantly contribute to the economic, social and environmental challenges facing the EU. It is also vocal on demonstrating that the sector can also contribute meaningfully, in the short-, medium- and long-term to securing our energy future through a sizable reduction in overall energy demand across the EU.

Partners of the Campaign are:



The **Renovate Europe Campaign** is an initiative of EuroACE, the European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings. Its headline ambition is to reduce the energy demand of the EU building stock by 80% by 2050 as compared to 2005 levels

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