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Five years on, is the EPBD working?

A review of how the Energy Performance Building Directive (EPBD) has been implemented across Europe, since it came into force on 4 January 2003, was today published by EⁿR, the European Energy Network.

Potentially the directive could save 45 million tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2010. However, a survey of 21 national energy agencies has revealed implementation of all aspects of EPBD to be disappointingly slow. Whilst the majority of member states have met articles 3, 5 and 6; only 20% have Energy Performance Certificates fully operational and even then only for new build homes.

“Despite this slow progress, EⁿR continues to strongly support the EPBD and is proposing a range of practical and deliverable policy options aimed at improving its implementation to both the EU and member states.” Said Simon Green, EⁿR President.

Based on these first hand experiences, EⁿR is urging the EU to:

- Set a timeframe by which all new buildings will be required to have net zero energy requirements or net zero carbon emissions when averaged over the year
- Set a timeframe by which significant reductions in energy requirements and carbon emissions from existing buildings will be achieved
- Lower the size threshold for buildings undergoing major renovations which have to meet minimum performance requirements and include individual households
- Require within seven years the installation of cost-effective energy efficiency and alternative energy systems when buildings are sold or rented.
- Require the establishment of support mechanisms and incentives to ensure that concrete action is taken on the back of EPBD provisions, leading to actual carbon savings



European Energy Network

Note to Editors

For further information and an interview with Simon Green, President of EⁿR contact Stephanie Moore on 00 44 1363 860070.

- Founded in 1991, EⁿR is a voluntary network of 23 European energy agencies involved in energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate change abatement. Their responsibilities vary from the planning, management and review of national research, development, demonstration and dissemination of programmes.
- The 160 million buildings in the EU use over 40% of Europe's energy and create over 40% of its carbon dioxide emissions, and that proportion is increasing. On 4 January 2003 the Energy Performance Building Directive came into force and Member States had until January 2006 to transpose the Directive. Its aim is to reduce the emissions of all buildings, both domestic and non-domestic. Potentially the directive could save 45 million tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2010 by introducing:
 - Agreed measurements of relative energy performance
 - Regular inspections and re-evaluations
 - Higher standards for upgrading larger buildings
 - Improved standards for new buildings.
- EPBD survey respondents:
 - Austria - Austrian Energy Agency www.energyagency.at
 - Bulgaria - Bulgarian Energy Efficiency Agency www.seea.government.bg
 - Croatia - EIHP www.eihp.hr
 - Czech Republic - CEA www.ceacr.cz
 - Denmark - Danish Energy Authority www.ens.dk
 - Finland - Motiva Oy www.motiva.fi
 - France - ADEME www.ademe.fr
 - Germany - PtJ www.fz-juelich.de/ptj
 - Greece - CRES www.cres.gr
 - Republic of Ireland - Sustainable Energy Ireland www.sei.ie
 - Italy - ENEA www.enea.it
 - Netherlands - SenterNovem www.senternovem.nl/English/
 - Norway - Enova www.enova.no
 - Poland - KAPE www.kape.gov.pl
 - Portugal - ADENE www.adene.pt
 - Romania - ARCE www.arceonline.ro
 - Slovakia - SEA www.sea.gov.sk
 - Slovenia - AURE www.aure.si
 - Spain - IDAE www.idae.es
 - Sweden - STEM www.energimyndigheten.se
 - UK - Energy Saving Trust www.energysavingtrust.org