



Press release

European survey shows different speeds on the road to an energy efficient building stock

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Brussels, April 20 – A new analysis by the Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE) demonstrates the need for clear EU legislation to help Member States make their new and existing buildings energy efficient. While national progress is visible, differences between Member States are significant. The findings come as a number of MEPs and Member States called for prioritising energy efficiency in Juncker’s investment plan, and the European Commission foresees a crucial role for efficiency in its Energy Union concept.

The key tool for improving efficiency in European buildings is the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) which asks Member States to develop a working plan to make their new buildings nearly Zero-Energy Buildings (nZEB) by 2020 while for public buildings the deadline is set for 2018.

According to the new BPIE analysis, progress made by EU countries and Norway varies significantly. While some states are already implementing their nZEB strategies, about half of the countries have not yet defined what an nZEB should look like.

BPIE further found a gap between Member States’ strategies for new and for existing buildings. While about half of EU countries have defined their strategy for new buildings, only 8 have established their nZEB requirements for existing buildings. 5 out of these 8 have set the same requirements for new and existing buildings, while the requirements are less strict in Austria, France and the Brussels Capital Region.

The main reason for these variations is due to the fact that the EPBD only provides a broad definition of nZEB and leaves it up to Member States to work out a detailed definition and implementation strategy for their country.

Buildings have a crucial role to play in Europe’s energy transition and the achievement of its 2020 climate and energy targets, as they account for almost half of the EU’s total energy consumption and 36 % of its greenhouse gas emissions.

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR

The nZEB factsheet is available at: bpie.eu/nzeb-factsheet.html



Key dates for nZEBs

- MS are required to set intermediate targets to improve the energy performance of buildings by June 2015.
- The European Commission is expected to review the national plans defining nZEB requirements by the end of 2015.
- The EPBD foresees that after 31 December 2020, all new buildings will be nZEBs, while for public buildings the deadline is set for 31 December 2018.

Definition of nZEB:

The EPBD (Directive 2010/31/EU) defines an nZEB as a “building that has a very high energy performance... []. The nearly zero or very low amount of energy required should to a very significant extent be covered by energy from renewable sources, including renewable energy produced on-site or nearby.”

About BPIE

The Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE) is a European not-for-profit think-tank with a focus on independent analysis and knowledge dissemination, supporting evidence-based policy making in the field of energy performance in buildings. It delivers policy analysis, policy advice and implementation support. www.bpie.eu and www.buildingsdata.eu