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Editorial

Dear reader,

According to the European Commission, 2016 is the year of policy delivery. With the COP21 momentum behind us, we have to make sure that [European policy decisions live up to the ambition of the Paris agreement](#) which committed us to pursue efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The [Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction](#), launched at COP21 and supported by BPIE, met recently to agree on a work plan in the run up to the Marrakech Climate Conference in November.

Ambitious implementation of policies and financial support programmes to renovate the European building stock will be essential to deliver the Paris agreement. BPIE is supporting such programmes, e.g. in Poland where we will hold our [second workshop on financing instruments on 8 June](#). We will present recommendations for a Polish scheme to support renovation, based on our [earlier analysis and a recent stakeholder consultation](#).

The building sector has many opportunities to contribute to delivering the Paris agreement. Energy efficiency is the first priority, with buildings at the core and centre of the energy transformation. Technological developments in the building sector regarding the integration of renewable energy systems, energy storage technologies and IT/Big Data systems provide opportunities to speed up the penetration of low carbon technologies in the transport and energy sector as well. We will discuss this [emerging role of buildings](#) as the solution nexus for carbon intensive sectors at an [event during the EU Sustainable Energy Week](#) for which reservation just opened.

Fighting fuel poverty is another driver to renovate the building stock. S&D MEP Theresa Griffin, [supported by the ITRE \(Industry, research and energy\) committee](#) of the European Parliament, has made [a call on the EU to tackle urgently the matter](#) and to put citizens at the Energy Union core in a paper called 'New deal for energy consumers'. BPIE's 2014 [report dedicated to potential measures to alleviate fuel poverty](#) highlighted the need for urgent action.

The development of renovation strategies to reduce fuel poverty is one of the many topics at the forthcoming [C4E Forum](#) which is taking place in June in Bulgaria. This event will focus on Central and Eastern European countries and will discuss with policy makers from the region how to speed up efficiency efforts. I recommend to check out the promising agenda. And finally, BPIE will

present solutions to renovate shopping centres across Europe which were developed in the EU-funded [CommONEnergy](#) project.

You can see that we have busy weeks ahead, a good sign for the "year of delivery"!
Best regards,

Oliver Rapf, Executive Director

Highlight



Opinion piece - Buildings are crucial to meeting COP21's ambition

There are several events making 2016 a great occasion to finally tap buildings potential: the follow-up to the Paris agreement, the revision of buildings-related directives (EPBD, EED and RED), the recent Heating & Cooling Strategy, as well as the entering on the market of affordable battery solutions.

One question remains: will Europe be able to maintain its promise to kick-start the changing role of buildings by putting this sector at the centre of its solutions agenda?

Oliver Rapf, BPIE's Executive Director, had the opportunity to share BPIE's position with EurActiv in March, in an [opinion piece](#).

Focus on... coming events

[BPIE event] Technical requirements and new financing options for renovated buildings: workshop in Poland, June 8

The report [Financing building energy performance improvement in Poland](#) analysed the energy performance of the Polish building stock and the characteristics of the renovation market, concluding with a series of policy recommendations to achieve deep renovations. Following the launch of the report and the success of the [first workshop](#) held last January, BPIE is planning another [workshop in Warsaw for June 8](#) to get deeper into the topics of financing and technical requirements for building renovation in the country. The workshop will also bring best practice cases which can be adapted to the national context, and increase the propensity of building owners and investors to renovate. [Registration](#).

[BPIE event] EUSEW 2016 - Smart consumers and smart buildings: the active role of buildings in a transforming energy system

BPIE will hold a policy conference **June 15** from 4pm to 5.30pm in Brussels- entitled [Smart consumers and smart buildings: the active role of buildings in a transforming energy system](#) - in the framework of the EU Sustainable Energy Week. We aim to inform and enable decision makers, industry and innovators on the role buildings could play in an interactive integration with the energy system, and how the building's user and owner can be part of this

transformation. The event will be held in the Residence Palace, Passage room, with very few seats available: make sure to reserve yours fast. Registrations close on June 8.

Energy Day 2016 - Smart strategies and policies for sustainable shopping centres: energy efficient and cost-competitive retrofitting solutions

This [event](#) will dive into the retrofitting of commercial buildings, with a focus on policies and technologies. Spotlight will be put on how to frame policies, integrating the CommONEnergy project results into policy-making with recommendations for new and existing commercial buildings. Shopping centres features in EU28 + Norway will be presented as well as the three demonstration cases lessons-learned and replication potential. The importance of innovation will be highlighted, with a session on technologies improving comfort and reducing energy consumption in shopping centres. **June 13**, from 2pm at BPIE premises - Rue de la science 23, Brussels. [Registration link](#).

BPIE is partnering with... IEPPEC 2016 in Amsterdam, June 7-9

The International Energy Policies & Programmes Evaluation Conference has become over the years a reference in the energy sector and this year again, IEPPEC will build a community to support the evaluation of carbon neutral/mitigation policies and programmes to ensure wise investment of resources. There are several scholarship options, do not hesitate to check out the [website](#) and the [application link](#). BPIE will have two presentations there: *Database tools for policy development - presenting building stock renovation programmes potentials through ESCC*, and *Use of building stock databases in policy development*. Join us!

BPIE is partnering with... The Central and Eastern European Energy Efficiency (C4E) Forum

In less than two months from now, from **June 22 to 25**, the Bulgarian Black Sea coast will host [the first Forum on the energy efficiency of buildings in Central and Eastern Europe](#), aimed at sharing and building upon the many interesting efficiency projects happening in the region. The interactive programme will combine practical sessions, creative workshops, evening plenaries with high-level speakers ([Maroš Šefcovic](#) confirmed) and plenty of informal networking opportunities.

Call for abstracts, deadline May 8 - International Conference on Sustainability in Energy and Buildings, SEB16 Torino, Sept 11-13

The European wholesale and retail sector contributes around 11% of the EU's GDP, representing 28% of the total non-residential building stock and producing the highest specific energy demand (BPIE, 2011). The shopping centre renovation rate is very high compared with the residential sector: 4.4%. Thus, sustainability of the retail sector and deep energy retrofitting strategies, with all their challenges, may significantly contribute to reaching the long-term environmental and energy goals of the EU. This [session on Energy efficiency in Commercial and Retail buildings](#) will gather the latest developments of solutions and challenges for energy efficient retrofitting technologies, design and operation of commercial and retail buildings. Submission of abstracts should be done by May 8 to Dr Matthias Haase, matthias.haase@sintef.no.

Save the date: MAPIC 2016 in November and Shopping Centre stakeholders' seminar, October 5

CommONEnergy, a FP7 European-funded project dealing with shopping centres retrofitting, is gaining more visibility with many events coming up: the project will be presented at MAPIC, the international retail property market, in November 2016 in Cannes. Another important date to

save is October 5: a one-day seminar organised in Valladolid will present the project and allow to visit the "Mercado del Val", one of the demonstration case that will reopen before Summer. Focus will be put on the typical challenges these buildings face, and the solutions tested in Valladolid: modular façade, lighting and more. Sustainability and economic assessment tools will be introduced. Scenarios are tested for 7 additional European centres and will be discussed. Agenda and registration link soon available on the website. <http://commonenergyproject.eu/>

BPIE is partnering with... The EU Utility Week 2016 Forum

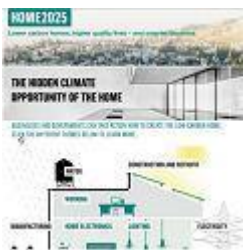
The [European Utility Week](#), from **November 15 to 17** in Barcelona, is a business, innovation and information platform connecting the smart utility community. The event focuses on regional and global developments in Grid Optimisation, Renewables, Energy Storage, Smart Metering, Smart Cities, Smart Homes, Energy Services & Efficiency, Intelligent Buildings, Data Management, Analytics and IoT, Cyber Security, Smart Gas and Smart Water.

In addition to the events announced above, BPIE will participate to the following events in the coming months:

- May 5 - 3rd [QUALICHECK](#) Conference, Brussels (Belgium)
- October 13-15 - [SBE2016 Istanbul](#) - Smart Metropolises - Integrated Solutions for Sustainable and Smart Buildings & Cities, Istanbul (Turkey)
- October 19-21 - The [European Federation of Building Societies \(EFBS\) XVIII European Congress](#), Budapest (Hungary)

News

[Article] Renovating low carbon homes in the EU



This [article](#), featured on the [Home 2025 website](#), looks at ambitious low carbon renovation strategies in the European Union, highlighted in one of [our recent report](#). Five case studies that cover different approaches to low carbon renovation are considered, including: zero-energy for zero-upfront-costs (The Netherlands); a revolving loan fund (Estonia); a large-scale national program (Germany); a scheme tackling fuel poverty (France) and dedicated energy services for the public sector (UK). Success factors to be considered with these different approaches range from maximizing buy-in through stakeholder engagement to having the right level of political commitment.

[Video and platform] COLD@HOME - learn more about fuel poverty in Europe



EnAct released a [9 minute online documentary film](#) presenting Ukrainian's fight to cope with winter after the government increase natural gas prices by 280%. Beyond the web documentary, [COLD@HOME](#) uses multimedia to investigate what fuel poverty is, where it exists, its causes and impacts. It explores solutions from policy, technology, financing and social perspectives, and includes tips on how to reduce energy consumption at home, which can be used by anyone to save money and reduce CO2 emissions. BPIE is contributing to the platform content, and [published a study](#) on the topic in 2014.



[Contest] Launch of the 2016 Active House Award Contest

The [Active House Alliance](#) just announced the official launch of the [2016 Active House Award Contest](#): architects, designers and constructors can present their Active House projects and win an Active House label! Participants should submit their projects/proposals until August 19. A jury will select 5 shortlisted projects in September, for results to be released in November. The new Active House label will be a worldwide quality mark for comfortable and sustainable buildings.



[Video] Renovating Europe's buildings - Taking stock of progress?

"Buildings need to play a central role and this event is a good base to bring people together and look for solutions": this is how Jan te Bos, Director General of EURIMA, described the event held December 2, 2015 in the EU Parliament and chaired by MEPs Morten Helveg Petersen and Miroslav Poche. "We need to make sure that the EPBD and EED are really properly and effectively implemented. Member States need to collaborate more closer together to share the many great case studies that have innovative programs to support the financing of renovation and encourage people", said Oliver Rapf, BPIE's Executive Director, in the [post-conference video](#).



[Articles] BPIE's partner Investor Confidence Project (ICP) wins prestigious Finance for Resilience Award

ICP received the prestigious [Finance for Resilience \(FiRe\) award](#) at *The Future of Energy Summit* hosted by Bloomberg New Energy Finance. The theme for this year's prize was driving investment in clean energy. This is a recognition of the key role improving building efficiency plays for a clean energy future. [ICP was one of the eight finalists chosen from a pool of over 40 proposals, and one of four FiRe winners resulting from a competitive pitch process](#). ICP recently launched a new Investor Network in order to drive demand in the marketplace by connecting real estate developers and energy efficiency providers with the private capital necessary to manage and complete building retrofits that deliver financial and environmental results. Members include a wide range of financial service firms including lenders, equity providers, project insurance providers, and energy services.



[Poster and video] Latest results from ZEBRA2020, for nearly Zero-Energy Buildings strategies

A [poster](#) showing all latest results from the project was exhibited during the World Sustainable Energy Days.

This poster's focus was put on the [online data tool](#) providing information on nZEB activity and on a survey aiming to evaluate the usefulness of Energy Performance Certificates in the real estate market and their contribution to the uptake of nZEBs.

Learn more about the data tool in [a short video](#).

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