



PRESS RELEASE

ITRE VOTE ON THE RECAST OF THE ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS DIRECTIVE

Brussels- 31st of March 2009: The European Renewable Energy Council welcomes today's vote on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) in the Industry, Transport, Research and Energy (ITRE) Committee of the European Parliament.

EREC President Arthouros Zervos welcomes the integrated approach on buildings based both on demand-side (energy efficiency) and supply-side (renewable energy) measures proposed in the EPBD by the Rapporteur Ms Silvia-Adriana Ticau. *"The buildings sector has not been adequately tackled in the Renewable Energy Directive. This is why the EPBD is a key piece of legislation for the renewable energy industry,"* says Mr Zervos.

"The ITRE Committee of the European Parliament sent today an important political signal in the midst of the climate and economic crisis," stated Mr Zervos.

A strong signal on the road to Copenhagen addressing the buildings' sector

The ITRE report requires all new buildings to become Net-Zero Energy Buildings by 31 December 2018. Net-Zero Energy Buildings combine both high energy efficiency measures and on-site renewable energy sources. Member States will have to set targets for refurbished buildings to become Net-Zero Energy Buildings in their national plans, plans that can be rejected by the Commission if they do not fulfill the requirements. The Commission can ask the Member States for amendments to the plans.

Furthermore, EREC welcomes the cross party agreement for an obligation in new buildings (before 2018) to consider renewable energy products and services. As regards refurbished buildings, Member States shall encourage renewable energy sources to be considered and taken into account.

Financing mechanism for the EPBD implementation

The ITRE report foresees – in order to implement these requirements- that the European Commission brings forward in 2010 legislative proposals considering reduced VAT-rates for services and products linked to renewable energy and energy efficiency. The proposals should also consider an increase of the maximum amount to 15% of the European Regional Development Fund allocation to support energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Additionally, the Rapporteur Ms Ticau proposed the establishment of a Fund, based on contributions from the Community budget, the European Investment Bank and Member States for investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy in buildings. EREC strongly welcomes the ITRE agreement on this Fund.

"EREC now calls on the European Parliament as a whole and the Council to keep this integrated approach based both on demand and supply-side measures to fully reap the benefits of sustainable buildings in terms of security of energy supply, competitiveness of our industries and sustainability", concludes EREC President.

EREC, the European Renewable Energy Council, is the umbrella organisation of the major European renewable energy industry, trade and research associations active in the field of photovoltaics, small hydropower, solar thermal, bioenergy, concentrated solar power, ocean & marine, geothermal, wind energy and biofuels. It represents an industry with an annual turnover of more than 40 billion € and more than 450.000 employees.

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