



PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTE ON THE RECAST OF THE ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS DIRECTIVE

Brussels- 24th of April 2009: The European Renewable Energy Council welcomes the plenary vote on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) in the European Parliament.

With a majority of 549 votes in favour of the report, the European Parliament clearly showed that addressing the building sector is key in the fight against climate change and will provide for the creation of new jobs in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors.

Net Zero Energy Buildings

The European Parliament report requires all new buildings to become net-zero energy buildings by December 2018. Both existing and new public buildings must implement requirements three years earlier, considering the exemplary role they have to play. Net-zero energy buildings implies a high level of energy efficiency measures, in combination with on-site renewable energy production.

However, EREC regrets that the obligation to consider and take into account the feasibility of renewable energy sources in new buildings from the entry into force of the Directive – which was agreed in the ITRE vote - has been deleted in the plenary vote.

Financing mechanisms

EREC strongly welcomes the agreement on financing mechanisms. The Parliament's report requires the European Commission to bring 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 of the European Regional Development Fund allocation to support energy efficiency and renewable energy. Last but not least, a fund should be established, 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 now calls on 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", says EREC President Arthouros Zervos.