

BRUSSELS, 16 DECEMBER 2021

THE REVISION OF THE ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS DIRECTIVE (EPBD)

EU.BAC PRESS RELEASE

On Wednesday, 15th of December the Commission proposed the revision of the EPBD- an essential part of the EU's Fit for 55 package. With the EU building stock responsible for 36% of EU greenhouse gas emissions and the current renovation rate of 1% per year, this revision is key to adopting legislation capable of achieving the 55% emission reduction target.

Hans Smid, President of eu.bac, said:

“eu.bac supports the new proposal unveiled yesterday by the European Commission. The Building Automation and Controls Industry welcomes the efforts to cut emissions while ensuring faster renovations result in future-proof, smart and healthy buildings. While we work at new legislation, we would nonetheless call once again the Commission to do whatever it takes to fully enforce existing measures of the EPBD which are not yet implemented by Member States”.

Peter Hug, Managing Director of eu.bac, noted:

“The European Commission took a step in the right direction: the new proposal includes a number of measures able to deliver a real impact for the health and well-being of citizens and, at the same time, digitalize and decarbonize the building stock” but, he continues, “however, there’s still room for improvement and eu.bac will do its part, providing policymakers and stakeholders with new suggestions in the coming months”.

eu.bac endorses the **increased scope of buildings covered by Building Automation and Control (BACS)** requirements. Given the ambitious EU climate objectives for a green and digital transition, this will provide a necessary boost to digitalise the building sector while delivering additional energy and CO₂ savings, system integration and improving the health and well-being of the occupants. Nevertheless, it must be highlighted that, as Member States are late to implement the existing BACS requirements the Commission should do more in enforcing implementation were necessary regardless of the measures in place. With a lack of clarity from Member States investors and professionals are left with uncertainty approaching 2025 when the existing requirements are set to come into force¹.

Another positive measure is the introduction of **Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS)** to accelerate renovation in Europe's lowest-performing buildings. eu.bac supports the Commission in particular in its choice to have non-residential buildings in scope of such an important measure, with performance milestones for Member States to follow. Nevertheless, the energy performance classes for the milestones should be defined more ambitiously, with stricter compliance mechanisms making sure that the requirements are met in real-life, to achieve the goal of the building stock to be zero-emission by 2050. Linked to this, the EPBD should also mandate the retrofit of **Technical Building**

¹ The [eu.bac EPBD BACS compliance verification package](#) provides policymakers, stakeholders and professionals with detailed instructions on how to implement the BACS requirements in an easy way, while the [eu.bac EPBD guidelines](#) include additional information on all the other new provisions of the 2018's EPBD.

Systems (TBS) in the worst-performing buildings. Retrofitting the TBS would futureproof buildings, enable smart grid integration while ensuring health and comfort.

The industry supports the introduction of a **mandatory Smart Readiness Indicator (SRI)** for certain buildings. The SRI has an important role to play in making our European buildings healthy, efficient, integrated and smart. The mandatory application will accelerate the use of the tool across the EU and drive the market to future-proof the building stock.

eu.bac is pleased to see that all new buildings after 2030 will have to be **Zero Emission Buildings (ZEBs)**, reflecting the ambition of the EU's decarbonisation targets. Furthermore, it is positive that the importance of **Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)** in ZEBs is recognised through the proposed mandatory measuring and control requirements.

The above measures combined with appropriate amendments will drive the renovation wave and ensure the EU delivers on its climate ambitions. Building renovations not only hold a large potential for greenhouse gas emission reduction but also provide living/working condition improvements and support the local economy in a sector that is very labour intensive. The building automation and control industry confirms its commitment to work together with policymakers to further improve the EPBD proposal, to meet EU climate targets and fully decarbonise the building stock by 2050.