



eu.bac  
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European Building Automation Controls Association

Brussels, 24 February 2025

Dear Executive Vice-President Henna Virkkunen,

As Europe navigates a rapidly evolving digital and geopolitical landscape, eu.bac stands ready to support your vision for a secure, sovereign, and democratic Union. Our association represents leading companies in the building automation and controls (BACS) industry, with strong European roots and a global footprint, which plays a pivotal role in advancing Europe's technological sovereignty, energy resilience, and digital innovation.

Building automation is critical to Europe's dual green and digital transition. Despite accounting for just 1% of total building costs, it delivers substantial energy savings of 26-52%, with an average payback period of three years. These technologies also contribute to technological sovereignty by leveraging European-based manufacturing and fostering innovation in secure, interoperable digital solutions. Furthermore, they strengthen Europe's resilience by reducing energy dependency and enhancing critical infrastructure cybersecurity.

The construction sector, a pillar of the EU's green and digital transitions, employed 7.6 million workers in 2022 and generated €158.1 billion in 2021, playing a key role in Europe's industrial competitiveness and strategic autonomy. Digitalisation in the built environment goes beyond energy efficiency—it enhances cybersecurity, strengthens Europe's technological leadership, and ensures resilience in critical infrastructure.

In alignment with your role as Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security, and Democracy, we encourage your leadership in the following areas:

- **Advancing Technological Sovereignty through BACS:** Promote policies that enhance smart building solutions for optimizing energy use, integrating renewables, and improving grid stability, such as the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. These solutions are crucial for achieving Europe's Digital Decade targets and maintaining global technological leadership..
- **Strengthening Cybersecurity and Interoperability:** Advocate for robust standards and certification schemes that protect critical infrastructure while fostering interoperability across the Single Market. BACS manufacturers are well-positioned to address cybersecurity challenges in the building sector, ensuring resilient and secure digital ecosystems.
- **Fostering Innovation and Collaboration:** Facilitate access to EU funding mechanisms, such as Horizon Europe and the Digital Europe Programme, to support research and development in frontier technologies, including AI-driven energy management. Promote collaboration across value chains to drive innovation and accelerate the adoption of smart building solutions.

Your mission letter highlights the need to align Europe's digital transformation with security and democratic values. BACS technologies contribute to this by integrating smart, energy-efficient solutions that reduce emissions, optimise resource use, and enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure against emerging risks. We look forward to engaging with your team to advance these priorities and remain at your disposal to provide expertise and support in achieving Europe's ambitious goals.

Yours sincerely,

Gusts Kossovičs  
Managing Director at eu.bac

Hans Smid  
President at eu.bac