

Donald Tusk

President of the European Council

Melanie Schultz Van Haegen-Maas Geesteranus

Minister for Infrastructure and the Environment of The Netherlands

Brussels, 1st March 2016

COP21 Paris Agreement:

Immediate and Ambitious Action on Energy Renovation of Buildings is Crucial

Dear President Tusk,

Dear Minister Schultz Van Haegen-Maas Geesteranus,

Given its leading role in the elaboration of the COP21 Paris Agreement, the EU must remain at the forefront of its implementation. To do this, it will be necessary to be courageous and to develop concrete and innovative approaches that will reduce emissions and boost growth and jobs.

The most cost effective tool that is available to you and the 28 Member States is to accelerate the energy renovation of our buildings. By doing so, you will give much needed meaning and life to the principle of *Energy Efficiency First*. It will be through investing in energy efficiency, especially in the buildings sector, that the EU can cost-effectively meet its long term climate commitments, while bringing resilience to the energy system. Our buildings consume 40% of all final energy in the EU and emit 36% of our greenhouse gases because they are old and inefficient and wasting up to 80% of all energy delivered to them. However, they could already be energy renovated with existing technologies and modern approaches to make them low energy and high performance, thus rendering them flexible towards future energy system changes.

Ambitious action on our buildings will create millions of local quality jobs¹, dramatically reduce fuel poverty, improve living conditions, reduce air pollution and increase health, well-being and productivity^{2,3,4}. Not least, this would also significantly contribute to the re-industrialisation goals of the EU and increase energy security by reducing overall energy demand.

The Renovate Europe Campaign and its 36 partner companies and associations, therefore urge you, in your deliberations on the outcome of the COP21, to fully recognise and integrate the strong contribution that ambitious action on energy renovation in the buildings sector can make to the achievement of a cleaner, more prosperous and better future for the EU and all of its citizens.

¹ See: **How many jobs?** http://www.euroace.org/PublicDocumentDownload.aspx?Command=Core_Download&EntryId=433

² See the IEA Report entitled *Capturing the Multiple Benefits of Energy Efficiency* at:

<http://www.iea.org/topics/energyefficiency/energyefficiencyiea/multiplebenefitsofenergyefficiency/>

³ See the Copenhagen Economics report entitled *Multiple Benefits of Investing in Energy Efficiency Renovations* at:

<http://www.renovate-europe.eu/Multiple-Benefits-Study>

⁴ See new report from the Global Buildings Performance Network on *Monetary Benefits of Ambitious Building Energy Policies* at:

http://www.gbpn.org/sites/default/files/Low_C_MBABEP.pdf?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter%2011%20-%20New%20Report%20Quantifies%20the%20Global%20Return%20on%20Investment%20of%20Ambitious%20Building%20Energy%20Performance%20Policies

Unlocking the potential tied up in our building stock will require the preparation and full implementation of solid, long term strategic national plans to energy renovate our building stock. This should be based on stronger collaboration between all actors involved at EU and national levels, and a continuous political commitment to prioritise energy renovation and the deployment of innovative financial models. This approach will quickly enable deeper retrofits delivering higher savings, lower energy bills, more jobs, more comfort and quicker progress on our common COP21 ambition.

The revisions of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) offer a unique opportunity to ensure consistency between the policy framework for buildings and the overarching goal of a nearly zero energy, fully decarbonised building stock by 2050. This will set the required level of ambition for accelerating this energy transition through energy renovation.

We call on you to ensure that the revised EPBD addresses the significant waste of energy that is occurring, day after day, from our building stock in the EU.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Joyce

Renovate Europe Campaign Director

Cc:

Heads of State and Government of the 28 Member States of the European Union and Ministers for Environment of the 28 Member States of the European Union

Additional information about the Renovate Europe Campaign

The Renovate Europe Campaign (REC) is a political communications campaign that was established in 2011. It brings together companies and associations that are convinced of the huge benefits to the EU economy and society of reducing the energy demand of existing buildings. In fact its objectives are to:

1. Reduce the energy demand of the EU building stock by 80% by 2050 as compared to 2005
2. Increase the rate of renovation in the EU from the current level of about 1% to reach 3% by 2020 and maintain that rate until 2050
3. Ensure that all renovations are deep or staged deep renovations that capture the full cost effective potential in each project
4. Encourage the formulation and implementation of an effective long-term policy and legal framework for the achievement of the headline objectives of the REC

There are currently (March 2016) 36 partner companies and associations actively engaged in the work of the REC. These include 14 national partners from 12 Member States.

Since its inception, the REC has been active in building knowledge and awareness of the potential of the existing building stock in the EU to significantly contribute to the economic, social and environmental challenges facing the EU. It is also vocal on demonstrating that the sector can also contribute meaningfully, in the short-, medium- and long-term to securing our energy future through a sizable reduction in overall energy demand across the EU.

Partners of the Campaign (March 2016) are:



The **Renovate Europe Campaign** is an initiative of EuroACE, the European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings. Its headline ambition is to reduce the energy demand of the EU building stock by 80% by 2050 as compared to 2005 levels

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