

Brussels, 16 September 2015

Subject: Renovate Europe Contribution to the Energy Union Tour (Poland & France)

Dear Vice-President ŠEFČOVIĆ,

Being a wonderful opportunity to present the Energy Union to the different Member States, **the Energy Union Tour** you are currently undertaking also enables the Commission to engage in useful exchange of views with national representatives on the situation of their energy system, as well as on implementation of EU legislation in the energy policy field. **Renovate Europe welcomes this initiative**, and follows it closely, notably your upcoming trips to **Poland** (30 September-2 October) and to **France** (7-8 October).

This letter aims at providing you with some **detailed information on the building sector and on energy efficiency policy** in Poland and in France, as well as with concrete ideas and recommendations (see Annex). I hope that you will find it useful, when meeting with representatives from the Member States, to nourish the debate and strengthen your arguments. As a matter of fact, this information directly comes from **companies and organisations** which have a **direct link** to the **Polish and French market and policy landscape**.

I therefore suggest that highlighting the **central role of energy efficient buildings within the Energy Union framework** would send a positive signal to both national policymakers and the general public, as you will be identifying a specific sector with a **large growth potential**, which can quickly stimulate economic activity, creating **local jobs**, and delivering multiple other benefits, such as an increased **energy security** and improved **health & comfort**.

To ensure that the potential tied up in our buildings is better known, EuroACE initiated **the Renovate Europe Campaign** in 2011 and it is in the capacity of Director of that Campaign that I am writing to you today. It is an industry-led political communications campaign that has 37 active partners striving to **achieve the ambition of reducing the energy demand of the existing building stock in the EU by 80% by 2050 as compared to 2005 levels**. Among our partners we have 14 national partners from 11 Member States, demonstrating the appeal of our work.

Moreover, EuroACE will hold an **Implementation Workshop in Warsaw on 4 November**, together with the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, in order to highlight the benefits of a good implementation of EU legislation in the sector of energy efficiency of buildings.

Again, I hope that you will find this information relevant, and would be delighted to give you, or your Cabinet, further details.

With sincere regards,



Adrian Joyce
Campaign Director

About Renovate Europe:

Launched in 2011 in response to a gap in EU priorities for Energy Efficiency in Buildings, the Campaign's headline ambition is to reduce the energy demand of the building stock in the EU by 80% by 2050 as compared to 2005 levels. A political communications campaign, Renovate Europe brings together companies and associations throughout the construction value chain to raise awareness about the benefits and trigger action in the renovation market.

www.renovate-europe.eu

Partners of the Campaign (September 2015) are:



About EuroACE:

EuroACE represents Europe's leading companies involved with the manufacture, distribution and installation of energy saving goods and services for buildings. EuroACE members employ over 315 000 people in these activities in Europe, and have around 880 production facilities and office locations. The mission of EuroACE is to work together with the EU institutions to help Europe move towards a more efficient use of energy in buildings, thereby contributing to Europe's commitments on climate change, energy security and economic growth.

EuroACE Members (September 2015) are:



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

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Annex 1: Energy Efficiency in Buildings in Poland

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| <p>State of the Building Stock</p> | <p>According to the BPIE Data Hub (http://www.buildingsdata.eu/), most buildings date from the 1945-1974 period and are residential buildings. 67% of them are located in urban areas, and 90% of them are privately owned.</p> |
| <p>Qualitative assessment of current market for energy efficiency in buildings and building renovation</p> | <p>According to EuroACE member companies, the current Polish market for energy efficiency in buildings and building renovation is described as a growing market in the commercial segment (notably with the gradual uptake of green building rating systems such as LEED or BREEAM), and a prospering market in the residential segment (new buildings). However, the residential segment (existing buildings being renovated) is still emerging, thanks to the support of European financing schemes and to the private sector. Energy efficient renovation of private buildings, despite the availability of regional and local support programs and incentives, still lacks a robust regulatory framework at national level.</p> |
| <p>Qualitative assessment of potential future market for energy efficiency in buildings and building renovation</p> | <p>According to EuroACE member companies, the Polish market is expected to boom, whether on new buildings or existing buildings being renovated, thanks to European financing schemes up to 2020. However, this large unexploited potential, especially located in the residential sector and more particularly, in single family houses, still does not get sufficient attention from building owners. Therefore, some awareness-raising is needed.</p> |
| <p>National Policy Assessment (Policy Best Practices & Policy Gaps)</p> | <p>According to EuroACE member companies, Poland is lagging behind when it comes to implementing EU legislation in the field of energy efficiency (EED and EPBD, especially on Energy Performance Certificates). This might be linked to the lack of understanding amongst politicians that energy efficiency of buildings is a policy area which can unleash so many benefits, e.g. improving air quality, a topic of great interest for Poland. For the moment, the energy policy very much focuses on the supply side, still lacks a clear long-term strategic approach when it comes to demand side, and does not sufficiently involve stakeholders. Finally, the market uptake of energy efficient technologies is still viewed as too slow, not being sufficiently supported by national authorities, even though the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management is starting considering the issue with some support schemes.</p> |
| <p>Building Renovation Best Practices</p> | <p>Even though there is limited access to data, in absence of a publicly available database, there are some good examples of building renovation in Poland.</p> |

Annex 2: Energy Efficiency in Buildings in France

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| <p>State of the Building Stock</p> | <p>According to the BPIE Data Hub (http://www.buildingsdata.eu/), 68% of the French floor area is located in residential buildings. A majority of these buildings were built in the period between 1949 and 1967, or even before 1915. 84% of residential buildings and 80% of non-residential buildings are privately owned. Concerning their energy performance, it is estimated that in France, 13% of the building stock performs <i>very badly</i>. This is even more worrying, knowing that the yearly renovation rate amounts only to 0.1%. Finally, regarding Energy Performance Certificates, its cost range between €80 for an apartment, to €250 for a residential house, and up to €300 to €1 000 for a non-residential building.</p> |
| <p>Qualitative assessment of <i>current</i> market for energy efficiency in buildings and building renovation</p> | <p>According to EuroACE member companies, the current French market for energy efficiency in buildings and building renovation is described as quite established, but with different dynamics, depending on which segment is considered. There has been a positive evolution since the beginning of the 2000s, until the economic crisis in 2008, where the market stabilized and the growth slowed down. However, energy efficiency is still not the number one priority.</p> |
| <p>Qualitative assessment of <i>potential future</i> market for energy efficiency in buildings and building renovation</p> | <p>According to EuroACE member companies, the French market is expected to be boosted, thanks to the policy promises from the Government (<i>Loi de Transition Energétique</i> adopted on 23 July 2015). However, it is worrying that the provision on building renovation in the residential sector (Article 6), which has been deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, has not been reworded or reworked, in order to be implemented. Actually putting in place this provision would enable the shift of focus in policy, from new buildings and the upper market, to where the biggest potential is, i.e. existing buildings being renovated and the low end market.</p> |
| <p>National Policy Assessment (Policy Best Practices & Policy Gaps)</p> | <p>According to EuroACE member companies, France has some good laws and regulations, like the Thermal Regulation (<i>RT 2012</i>) or the new Energy Transition Law (2015), which includes provisions on one-stop-shops for financing and planning energy renovation, or specific measures to address energy poverty. Nonetheless, it will be necessary to adopt implementation decrees, and to ensure thorough enforcement. Some challenges might arise, e.g. competence gap in the construction sector, lack of real long-term vision for the building stock, financing schemes still too complex, and a lack of control and significant penalties. More has to be done on raising awareness regarding the huge opportunity to create local jobs thanks to an ambitious building renovation policy.</p> |
| <p>Building Renovation Best Practices</p> | <p>Some Best Practices can be retrieved on this website http://www.observatoirebbc.org/site/renovation/chercher</p> |