

## **Energy Renovation – The real way to put citizens at the heart of the Energy Union**

*Renovate Europe held a breakfast briefing, hosted by MEP Theresa Griffin, on the theme of energy renovation and consumers on 15<sup>th</sup> June in the European Parliament in the context of the upcoming review of key buildings-related legislation in the autumn.*

At the event, MEP Theresa Griffin (S&D, UK) spoke forcibly about the need to increase energy renovation of buildings and thereby address the **principle root cause for energy poverty**. *“Energy Renovation is an opportunity to create a **synergy between energy policy, social policy and industrial policy** across the EU, and to **reconnect with citizens**”* she said.

*“Energy renovation must be at the heart of the Energy Union,”* explained Adrian Joyce, Director of the Renovate Europe Campaign, *“Buildings are central to our lives, to our health and to our productivity – **citizens deserve quality buildings to live, learn and work in**”*.

Reducing the energy demand of the building stock in the EU will result in numerous benefits to citizens seeking more **comfortable, affordable and healthier homes**. *“We must keep in touch with reality, and listen to the needs especially of **low income groups** on the ground, who are concerned about the potential rent increases following refurbishment”*, said Sorcha Edwards, Secretary General of Housing Europe.

This breakfast event comes on the heel of Commissioner Cañete calling for a **definition of energy poverty** on 14<sup>th</sup> June during EU Sustainable Energy Week, and to develop an **EU observatory for energy poverty**. Clearer data for buildings will lead to more transparency and better policy making to address the serious problem of energy poverty affecting between 50 and 125 million people consumers across the EU<sup>1</sup>.

The energy efficiency package expected in the autumn provides the Commission with the unique opportunity to rectify current loopholes in EU legislation hindering the uptake of the renovation market. **Energy Efficiency first** must be prioritized in the upcoming revised legislation.

*“If we don’t address energy waste in buildings, energy production and smart buildings won’t fully benefit consumers”*, insisted Yamina Saheb, researcher at OpenExp. *“Inefficient buildings that produce energy do not solve any problem. Ensuring we **get rid of energy waste in buildings** is a prerequisite to moving to smart buildings”*.

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<sup>1</sup> See BPIE Report: Alleviating Fuel Poverty in the EU (2014)

### 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 (June 2016) 37 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 (June 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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