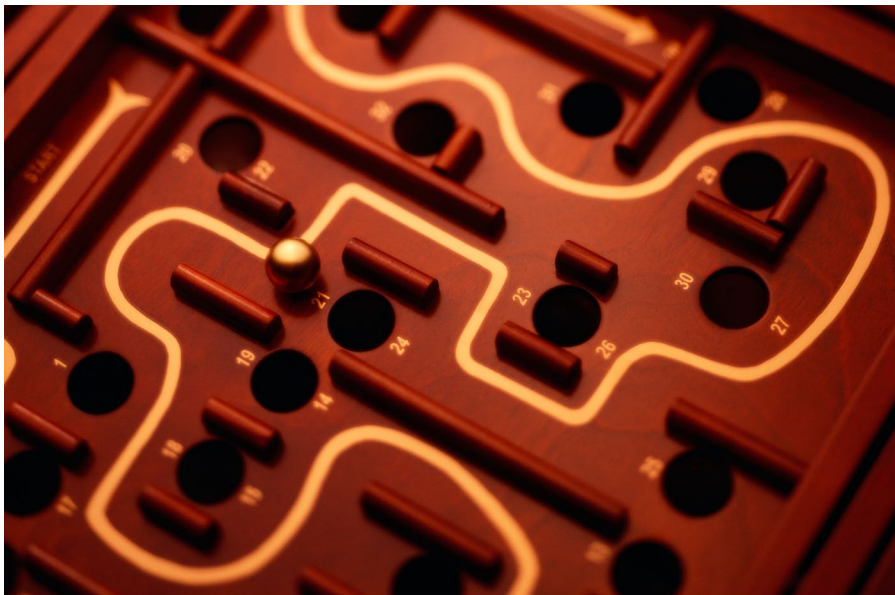




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Steering through the maze #3

Your guide to Frequently Asked Questions on the Recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive



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8 November 2010

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This FAQ document has been produced by eceee as a guide to understanding the recast of the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)¹ which was adopted on 19 May 2010 by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. The recast Directive aims at strengthening the energy performance requirements and to clarify and streamline some of the provisions from the 2002 Directive it replaces.

There are many questions that are being asked about the recast EPBD and how different it is from the original Directive. eceee tries to answer the most common ones and this FAQ report will be updated regularly, as eceee is asked more questions about the recently approved recast Directive.

We welcome questions and suggestions at buildings@eceee.org

The questions

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¹ Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings (recast).

The answers

1. *How important are buildings for energy consumption and climate impact?*

Buildings account for 40 % of total energy consumption in the EU (and almost the same share of GHG emission) and there is significant potential to reduce that through improving energy performance of buildings. The recast was formulated to help the EU meet its 2020 target of a 20 % reduction in energy consumption mainly through energy efficiency. The Commission Communication of November 2008 on the proposed recast stated that buildings have significant untapped potential for cost effective energy savings “which, if realized, would mean that in 2020 the EU will consume 11 % less final energy.”

2. *What is the aim of the EPBD?*

As the Commission stated in the published proposal, the aim of the recast is to “clarify and simplify certain provisions, extend the scope of the Directive, strengthen some of its provisions so that their impact is more effective, and to provide for the leading role of the public sector. In doing so, the transposition and implementation of the EPBD are to be facilitated and a significant portion of the remaining cost-effective potential in the buildings sector will be reaped. At the same time, the objectives and principles of the current Directive are retained and it is again left to Member States to determine the concrete requirements, performance levels and ways to implement it as before.”

However, a number of additional obligations are placed on the Member States in the way of a cost-optimal calculation methodology, reporting requirements, technical building systems, low- and zero-energy and carbon buildings, control and monitoring of implementation and penalties for non compliance.

The EPBD is the main legal instrument in Europe for improving energy performance in buildings. It provides for a comprehensive and integrated approach towards improving the efficient use of energy in both new and existing buildings, residential as well as commercial. The EPBD's provisions cover energy needs for thermal insulation, space and hot water heating, cooling, ventilation and lighting.

3. *What are the main improvements in the recast EPBD?*

Eurima, the European Insulation Manufacturers Association, sets out where it sees the strength of the new Recast:

“The most significant improvements brought by... [the] agreement include the removal of the 1,000 m² threshold for renovation in existing residential buildings which avoids the exclusion of 70 % of the building stock from the scope of the Directive and the setting of minimum energy performance requirements when a building element is refurbished or retrofitted. This is a major step forward for the improvement of the energy performance of existing buildings.”²

It is useful to look at some of the specific elements of the recast Directive. Article 1, paragraph 2 states that the Directive lays down requirements concerning:

- (a) the common general framework for a methodology for calculating the integrated energy performance of buildings and building units;
- (b) the application of minimum requirements to the energy performance of new buildings and new building units;
- (c) the application of minimum requirements to the energy performance of:

² Press release, November 2009. For more information see www.eurima.org

- (i) existing buildings, building units and building elements that are subject to major renovation;
 - (ii) building elements that form part of the building envelope and that have a significant impact on the energy performance of the building envelope when they are retrofitted or replaced; and
 - (iii) technical building systems whenever they are installed, replaced or upgraded;
- (d) national plans for increasing the number of nearly zero-energy buildings;
 - (e) energy certification of buildings or building units;
 - (f) regular inspection of heating and air-conditioning systems in buildings; and
 - (g) independent control systems for energy performance certificates and inspection reports.

When the recast Directive was approved 19 May 2010, many of the features of the original Directive were strengthened and new requirements were introduced:

- As of 31 December 2020, new buildings in the EU must consume “nearly zero” energy, which will be “to a very large extent” from renewable sources.
- Public authorities that own or occupy a new building should set an example by building, buying or renting such a “nearly zero energy building” by 31 December 2018.
- “Nearly zero energy building” means: “a building that has a very high energy performance, determined in accordance with Annex I [of the Directive]. The nearly zero or very low amount of energy required should to a very significant level be covered by energy from renewable source, including renewable energy produced on-site or nearby.”
- No specific target is set for the renovation of existing buildings. However, Member States shall follow the lead of the public sector by developing policies and adopting measures (such as energy targets) that will stimulate the transformation of refurbished buildings into very low energy buildings. The Member States shall inform the Commission thereof in their national plans.
- The 1000 m² threshold for major renovation that was in the original Directive was deleted. Instead, it will take effect when the national regulations have been implemented and applied, probably at the beginning of 2014. So, now virtually all buildings in Europe are covered under the recast Directive.
- Minimum requirements for components are introduced for all replacements and renovations. For major renovations, the holistic calculation methodology is the preferred method. As a complement or alternative, performance calculations based on component requirements are allowed.
- The Directive includes a harmonised calculation methodology to push up the minimum energy performance requirements in Member States towards a cost-optimal level. This method is noted in a definition and an annex. It will be refined via a comitology process³. Member States will have to justify to the Commission any gap exceeding 15 % between current and cost optimal requirements.
- A more detailed and rigorous procedure for issuing energy performance certificates will be required in Member States.
- Control systems will be required by Member States to check the correctness of performance certification.

³ The committees in the comitology process are forums for discussion, consist of representatives from Member States and are chaired by the Commission. They enable the Commission to establish dialogue with national administrations before adopting implementing measures. The Commission ensures that measures reflect as far as possible the situation in each of the countries concerned. For more on the comitology process as it pertains to the recast of the Buildings Directive see *Steering through the maze #1. Your guide to the eceee EPBD recast* updated 9 March, 2010 available at <http://www.eceee.org/buildings>.



- Member States must introduce penalties for non-compliance. They shall lay down the rules on penalties that apply to infringements of the national provisions adopted pursuant to this Directive and they shall take all measures necessary to ensure that they are implemented. The penalties provided for must be effective, proportionate and dissuasive. Member States shall communicate those provisions to the Commission.

4. *What types of buildings are covered by this Directive?*

The directive covers all buildings in all end-use sectors – residential, commercial, public and industrial. Article 2 of the recast Directive defines buildings as “a roofed construction having walls, for which energy is used to condition the indoor climate”.

The directive covers both new and existing buildings. Member States are allowed to exclude the following:

- (a) buildings officially protected as part of a designated environment or because of their special architectural or historical merit, in so far as compliance with certain minimum energy performance requirements would unacceptably alter their character or appearance;
- (b) buildings used as places of worship and for religious activities;
- (c) temporary buildings with a time of use of two years or less, industrial sites, workshops and non-residential agricultural buildings with low energy demand and non-residential agricultural buildings which are in use by a sector covered by a national sectoral agreement on energy performance;
- (d) residential buildings which are used or intended to be used for either less than four months of the year or, alternatively, for a limited annual time of use and with an expected energy consumption of less than 25 % of what would be the result of all-year use;
- (e) stand-alone buildings with a total useful floor area of less than 50 m².

5. *Is there something in the recast Directive specifically for new buildings?*

There is a considerable amount for both new and existing buildings, although many feel more for new buildings.

Article 4 states that “Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that minimum energy performance requirements for buildings or building units are set with a view to achieving cost-optimal levels. The energy performance shall be calculated in accordance with the methodology” referred to in other parts of the Directive.

Article 6 states “For new buildings, Member States shall ensure that, before construction starts, the technical, environmental and economic feasibility of high-efficiency alternative systems such as those listed below, if available, is considered and taken into account:

- (a) decentralised energy supply systems based on energy from renewable sources;
- (b) cogeneration;
- (c) district or block heating or cooling, particularly where it is based entirely or partially on energy from renewable sources;
- (d) heat pumps.”

Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings

A new article has been introduced in the EPBD recast on nearly zero energy buildings. These are described as buildings that have a very high energy performance with the nearly zero or very low amount of energy required to a very significant extent be covered by energy from renewable sources.



Article 9 states that Member States shall ensure that:

- (a) by 31 December 2020, all new buildings are nearly zero-energy buildings; and
- (b) after 31 December 2018, new buildings occupied and owned by public authorities are nearly zero-energy buildings.

Article 2 defines a nearly zero energy building as: “a building that has a very high energy performance, as determined in accordance with Annex I. The nearly zero or very low amount of energy required should be covered to a very significant extent by energy from renewable sources, including energy from renewable sources produced on-site or nearby.”

Thus, there are very ambitious targets for all new buildings in all sectors, whether they be single-family dwellings or commercial office buildings. These targets are considered the most ambitious globally.

The challenge is to meet the dates of 2018 and 2020.

6. *Is there something specifically for existing buildings?*

There are many elements of the recast Directive that pertain to existing buildings. Unfortunately, the recast does not set targets for improving existing buildings and non-legislative measures will be needed to address how to achieve a greater share of renovation.

However there are other important aspects relating to existing buildings.

Article 4 states that “Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that minimum energy performance requirements for buildings or building units are set with a view to achieving cost-optimal levels. The energy performance shall be calculated in accordance with the methodology” referred to in other parts of the Directive.

Article 4 continues: “Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that minimum energy performance requirements are set for building elements that form part of the building envelope and that have a significant impact on the energy performance of the building envelope when they are replaced or retrofitted, with a view to achieving cost-optimal levels.

“When setting requirements, Member States may differentiate between new and existing buildings and between different categories of buildings.

“These requirements shall take account of general indoor climate conditions, in order to avoid possible negative effects such as inadequate ventilation, as well as local conditions and the designated function and the age of the building.”

The 1000 m² threshold for major renovation that was in the original Directive was deleted. Instead, it will take effect when the national regulations have been implemented and applied.

Minimum requirements for components are introduced for all replacements and renovations. For major renovations, the holistic calculation methodology is the preferred method. As a complement or alternative, performance calculations based on component requirements are allowed.

7. *What does cost-optimality mean and how is the concept used?*

The EPBD recast now requests that Member States shall ensure that minimum energy performance requirements for buildings are set “with a view to achieving cost-optimal levels”. The cost optimum level shall be calculated in accordance with a comparative methodology.

Article 2 defines the “cost-optimal level” which “means the energy performance level which leads to the lowest cost during the estimated economic lifecycle, where:

- (a) the lowest cost is determined taking into account energy-related investment costs, maintenance and operating costs (including energy costs and savings, the category of building concerned, earnings from energy produced), where applicable, and disposal costs, where applicable; and
- (b) the estimated economic lifecycle is determined by each Member State. It refers to the remaining estimated economic lifecycle of a building where energy performance requirements are set for the building as a whole, or to the estimated economic lifecycle of a building element where energy performance requirements are set for building elements.

“The cost-optimal level shall lie within the range of performance levels where the cost benefit analysis calculated over the estimated economic lifecycle is positive.”

There will soon be some published reports that give a greater description of cost-optimality. When they are available they will be announced on the eceee website.

Article 5 states that the Commission shall establish by means of delegated acts by 30 June 2011 a comparative methodology framework for calculating cost-optimal levels of minimum energy performance requirements for buildings and building elements.

Article 5 further states that Member States shall calculate cost-optimal levels of minimum energy performance requirements using the comparative methodology framework established such as climatic conditions and the practical accessibility of energy infrastructure, and compare the results of this calculation with the minimum energy performance requirements in force.

8. What is a major renovation under the recast?

The recast of the EPBD is designed in part to encourage more major renovations that achieve significantly higher improvements in energy performance than “normal” renovations. This essentially means that a more comprehensive approach to renovation is needed. The benefit is that there are more opportunities for savings when taking a “whole building” approach.

Article 2 defines major renovation as “the renovation of a building where:

- (a) the total cost of the renovation relating to the building envelope or the technical building systems is higher than 25 % of the value of the building, excluding the value of the land upon which the building is situated; or
- (b) more than 25 % of the surface of the building envelope undergoes renovation ...”

Member States may choose to use either option (a) or (b).

Article 7 states that “Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that when buildings undergo major renovation, the energy performance of the building or the renovated part thereof is upgraded in order to meet minimum energy performance requirements set in accordance with Article 4 [eceee’s comment: on setting minimum energy performance requirements] in so far as this is technically, functionally and economically feasible”.

Article 10 states that “Member States shall take account of the cost-optimal levels of energy performance when providing incentives for the construction or major renovation of buildings”.

9. What is a Nearly Zero Energy Building and how will this concept be implemented?

A new article has been introduced in the EPBD recast on nearly zero energy buildings. These are described as buildings that have a very high energy performance with the nearly zero or very low amount of energy required to a very significant extent be covered by energy from renewable sources.

Article 9 states that Member States shall ensure that:

- (a) by 31 December 2020, all new buildings are nearly zero-energy buildings; and
- (b) after 31 December 2018, new buildings occupied and owned by public authorities are nearly zero-energy buildings.

Article 2 defines a nearly zero energy building as: “a building that has a very high energy performance, as determined in accordance with Annex I. The nearly zero or very low amount of energy required should be covered to a very significant extent by energy from renewable sources, including energy from renewable sources produced on-site or nearby.”

Thus, there are very ambitious targets for all new buildings in all sectors, whether they be single-family dwellings or commercial office buildings. These targets are considered the most ambitious globally.

The challenge is to meet the dates of 2018 and 2020.

Several organisations are actively working to provide support to achieve those dates. For example, the Buildings Performance Institute Europe⁴ is undertaking a study to develop guidelines on implementation. The Architects Council of Europe is also quite active.⁵

10. How will energy performance certificates (EPCs) be implemented?

In the original 2002 EPBD, energy performance certificates have had mixed implementation results. In 2009, eceee published a case study of Ireland and Portugal, two of the leaders in this. Now, the Buildings Performance Institute Europe is undertaking a wider study on 12 Member States. The Concerted Action activity of the EPBD includes only governments and it has certificates as a core theme. More information is also available from Build Up, which is the EU funded web portal for energy efficiency in buildings.

The recast is designed to strengthen the importance and role of EPCs. These are outlined in Articles 11, 12 and 13. First, consider some of the elements:

- The energy performance certificate shall include the energy performance of a building and reference values such as minimum energy performance requirements in order to make it possible for owners or tenants of the building or building unit to compare and assess its energy performance.
- Certification for single-family houses may be based on the assessment of another representative building of similar design and size with a similar actual energy performance quality if such correspondence can be guaranteed by the expert issuing the energy performance certificate.
- The validity of the energy performance certificate shall not exceed 10 years.
- Member States shall ensure that an energy performance certificate is issued for:
 - buildings or building units which are constructed, sold or rented out to a new tenant; and
 - buildings where a total useful floor area over 500 m² is occupied by a public authority and frequently visited by the public. On 9 July 2015, this threshold of 500 m² shall be lowered to 250 m².
- Member States shall require that, when buildings or building units are constructed, sold or rented out, the energy performance certificate or a copy thereof is shown to the prospective new tenant or buyer and handed over to the buyer or new tenant.
- Where a building is sold or rented out in advance of construction, Member States may require the seller to provide an assessment of its future energy performance, as a derogation from paragraphs 1 and 2; in this case, the energy performance certificate shall be issued at the latest once the building has been constructed.

⁴ www.bpie.eu

⁵ for more information, go to <http://www.ace-cae.eu/>



- Member States shall require that when:
 - buildings having an energy performance certificate,
 - building units in a building having an energy performance certificate, and
 - building units having an energy performance certificate, are offered for sale or for rent, the energy performance indicator of the energy performance certificate of the building or the building unit, as applicable, is stated in the advertisements in commercial media.
- Member States shall take measures to ensure that where a total useful floor area over 500 m² of a building for which an energy performance certificate has been issued is occupied by public authorities and frequently visited by the public, the energy performance certificate is displayed in a prominent place clearly visible to the public.
On 9 July 2015, this threshold of 500 m² shall be lowered to 250 m².
- Member States shall require that where a total useful floor area over 500 m² of a building for which an energy performance certificate has been issued is frequently visited by the public, the energy performance certificate is displayed in a prominent place clearly visible to the public.

11. Who will finance improvements to meet the objectives?

Financing is a major concern, particularly for renovation of existing buildings. It is important to re-state what was stated in Question 6.

Article 10 states that “Member States shall draw up, by 30 June 2011, a list of existing and, if appropriate, proposed measures and instruments including those of a financial nature, other than those required by this Directive, which promote the objectives of this Directive.

Member States shall update this list every three years.”

Article 10 states: “The Commission shall examine the effectiveness of the listed existing and proposed measures referred to in paragraph 2 as well as of relevant Union instruments, in supporting the implementation of this Directive. On the basis of that examination, and taking due account of the principle of subsidiarity, the Commission may provide advice or recommendations as regards specific national schemes and coordination with Union and international financial institutions. The Commission may include its examination and possible advice or recommendations in its report on the National Energy Efficiency Plans referred to in Article 14(5) of Directive 2006/32/EC [ecee’s comment: the so-called energy services directive].”

Article 10 further states: “In order to improve financing in support of the implementation of this Directive and taking due account of the principle of subsidiarity, the Commission shall, preferably by 2011, present an analysis on, in particular:

- (a) the effectiveness, the appropriateness of the level, and the actual amount used, of structural funds and framework programmes that were used for increasing energy efficiency in buildings, especially in housing;
- (b) the effectiveness of the use of funds from the EIB [ecee: European Investment Bank] and other public finance institutions;
- (c) the coordination of Union and national funding and other forms of support that can act as a leverage for stimulating investments in energy efficiency and the adequacy of such funds for achieving Union objectives.”

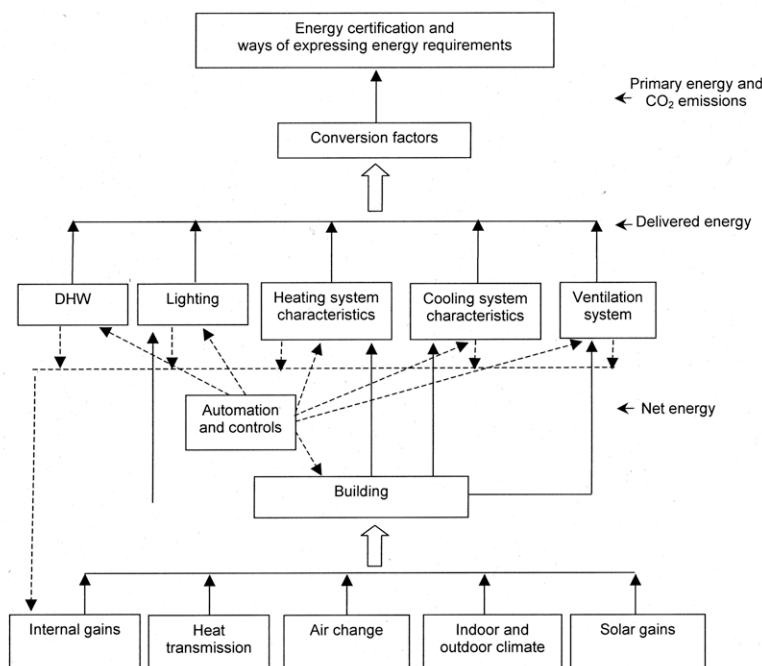
It is important, however, to get the financial community to understand the cost benefits of improved energy efficiency. Financing cannot be left to government.

12. What CEN standards are available for this Directive?

Harmonised standards are important for implementing the Directive. There are 31 standards developed by the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) for the original EPBD. They relate to the assessment and calculation of the efficiency of a building's overall energy performance.

It is best to show schematically the linkage between the standards.

CEN standards to support the EPBD⁶



13. What is the role of the public sector for the recast?

The public sector has two important roles to assure the impact of the recast Directive. First, for nearly zero-energy buildings, the target date is December 31, 2018 for new buildings to be NZEB. That is two years before all other sectors. That is a significant and ambitious difference.

Second, as stated in the response to the question on energy performance certificates, Member States shall ensure that an energy performance certificate is issued for:

- buildings or building units which are constructed, sold or rented out to a new tenant; and
- buildings where a total useful floor area over 500 m² is occupied by a public authority and frequently visited by the public. On 9 July 2015, this threshold of 500 m² shall be lowered to 250 m².

Also, Member States shall take measures to ensure that where a total useful floor area over 500 m² of a building for which an energy performance certificate has been issued is occupied by public authorities and frequently visited by the public, the energy performance certificate is displayed in a prominent place clearly visible to the public. On 9 July 2015, this threshold of 500 m² shall be lowered to 250 m².

⁶ Source: Standard CEN/BT WG 173 EPBD N 15 rev. 2006, Umbrella document.

Thus, the public sector is expected to set an important example to the rest of the economy.

14. How are components within buildings addressed in the recast?

Components are given considerable attention in the recast Directive. The recast Directive has Article 8 dealing with technical building systems. Instead of looking specifically at components, the recast takes a systems approach. The article states that: “Member States shall, for the purpose of optimising the energy use of technical building systems, set system requirements in respect of the overall energy performance, the proper installation, and the appropriate dimensioning, adjustment and control of the technical building systems which are installed in existing buildings. Member States may also apply these system requirements to new buildings.”

The article then goes on to state that “System requirements shall be set for new, replacement and upgrading of technical building systems and shall be applied in so far as they are technically, economically and functionally feasible”.

The system requirements shall cover at least the following:

- (a) heating systems;
- (b) hot water systems;
- (c) air-conditioning systems;
- (d) large ventilation systems; or a combination of such systems.

Article 7 on existing buildings adds: “Member States shall in addition take the necessary measures to ensure that when a building element that forms part of the building envelope and has a significant impact on the energy performance of the building envelope, is retrofitted or replaced, the energy performance of the building element meets minimum energy performance requirements in so far as this is technically, functionally and economically feasible.”

The preamble to the Directive goes on: “When setting energy performance requirements for technical building systems, Member States should use, where available and appropriate, harmonised instruments, in particular testing and calculation methods and energy efficiency classes developed under measures implementing Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-related products and Directive 2010/30/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the indication by labelling and standard product information of the consumption of energy and other resources by energy-related products, with a view to ensuring coherence with related initiatives and minimise, to the extent possible, potential fragmentation of the market.”

15. What is the expected impact of this recast?

The impact assessment to the *original Commission proposal* for a recast stated that the minimum total impact of the most beneficial options, for which quantification was possible, is:

- 60 to 80 Mtoe/year energy savings by 2020, i.e. a reduction of 5–6 % of the EU final energy consumption in 2020;
- 160 to 210 Mt/year CO₂ savings by 2020, i.e. 4–5 % of EU total CO₂ emissions in 2020;
- 280,000 (to 450,000) potential new jobs by 2020, mainly in the construction sector, energy certifiers and auditors and inspectors of heating and air-conditioning systems.



Since that impact assessment, the recast was revised with final agreement reached November 2009. Hopefully, the revision led to even better results although to date no further assessment has been published.

What is the likelihood that all this impact will be achieved?

It was widely agreed that the first EPBD was poorly implemented although its overall impact is still difficult to assess. The recast is to help improve the overall impact. One study shows that the impact can be somewhat assessed by looking at compliance rates.⁷ It states that compliance rates for existing buildings is 55 % and for new buildings is 70 %.

16. How can we be assured that the objectives will be met?

There is no way to assure objectives will be met. The recast of the EPBD is a long-term policy commitment and maintaining that long-term perspective is not easy. This will require the dedicated efforts of a wide range of stakeholders.

The recast Directive has a requirement for controls to be undertaken by Member States. Annex II of the Directive provides guidance on the control systems. There are now penalties for non-compliance that Member States must report to the Commission.

eccee will be following the progress of implementation and providing updates through announcements on its website.

17. What are the obligations of the Commission in implementing the EPBD?

While implementation is the responsibility of Member States, there are several obligations for the Commission, not including general reporting or monitoring. The main ones are:

Minimum energy performance requirements

As explained in question 5, “Article 5 states that the Commission shall establish by means of delegated acts . . . by 30 June 2011 a comparative methodology framework for calculating cost-optimal levels of minimum energy performance requirements for buildings and building elements”. The Commission is current preparing its position on this to present to Member States for discussion and approval.

Article 5 explains that Member States are obliged to report to the Commission and “the Commission shall publish a report on the progress of the Member States in reaching cost-optimal levels of minimum energy performance requirements”.

Nearly zero-energy buildings

On nearly zero-energy buildings, Article 9 states: “The Commission shall evaluate the national plans referred to in paragraph 1 [eccee: Member States have obligations to prepare national plans on promoting nearly zero-energy buildings], notably the adequacy of the measures envisaged by the Member State in relation to the objectives of this Directive. The Commission, taking due account of the principle of subsidiarity, may request further specific information regarding the requirements set out in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3. In that case, the Member State concerned shall submit the requested information or propose amendments within nine months following the request from the Commission. Following its evaluation, the Commission may issue a recommendation.

“The Commission shall by 31 December 2012 and every three years thereafter publish a report on the progress of Member States in increasing the number of nearly zero-energy buildings. On the basis of that report the Commission shall develop an action plan and, if necessary, propose measures to increase the number of those buildings and encourage

⁷ ECF/RAP, *Energy Savings 2020, How to Triple the Impact of Energy Savings Policies in Europe*, September 2010, p. 29

best practices as regards the cost-effective transformation of existing buildings into nearly zero-energy buildings.”

Financial incentives

Article 10 states that “Member States shall draw up, by 30 June 2011, a list of existing and, if appropriate, proposed measures and instruments including those of a financial nature, other than those required by this Directive, which promote the objectives of this Directive”.

Member States shall update this list every three years.

Article 10 states: “The Commission shall examine the effectiveness of the listed existing and proposed measures referred to in paragraph 2 as well as of relevant Union instruments, in supporting the implementation of this Directive. On the basis of that examination, and taking due account of the principle of subsidiarity, the Commission may provide advice or recommendations as regards specific national schemes and coordination with Union and international financial institutions. The Commission may include its examination and possible advice or recommendations in its report on the National Energy Efficiency Plans referred to in Article 14(5) of Directive 2006/32/EC [ecee: the so-called energy services directive].”

Article 10 further states: “In order to improve financing in support of the implementation of this Directive and taking due account of the principle of subsidiarity, the Commission shall, preferably by 2011, present an analysis on, in particular:

- (a) the effectiveness, the appropriateness of the level, and the actual amount used, of structural funds and framework programmes that were used for increasing energy efficiency in buildings, especially in housing;
- (b) the effectiveness of the use of funds from the EIB [ecee: European Investment Bank] and other public finance institutions;
- (c) the coordination of Union and national funding and other forms of support that can act as a leverage for stimulating investments in energy efficiency and the adequacy of such funds for achieving Union objectives.”

Energy performance certificates

Article 11 states that “The Commission shall, by 2011, in consultation with the relevant sectors, adopt a voluntary common European Union certification scheme for the energy performance of non-residential buildings. That measure shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 26(2). Member States are encouraged to recognise or use the scheme, or use part thereof by adapting it to national circumstances.”

Information

Article 20 states that “The Commission is invited to continuously improve its information services, in particular the website that has been set up as a European portal for energy efficiency in buildings directed towards citizens, professionals and authorities, in order to assist Member States in their information and awareness-raising efforts. Information displayed on this website might include links to relevant European Union and national, regional and local legislation, links to Europa websites that display the National Energy Efficiency Action Plans, links to available financial instruments, as well as best practice examples at national, regional and local level. In the context of the European Regional Development Fund, the Commission shall continue and further intensify its information services with the aim of facilitating the use of available funds by providing assistance and information to interested stakeholders, including national, regional and local authorities, on funding possibilities, taking into account the latest changes in the regulatory framework.