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Energy Performance of Buildings Directive: A once-in-a-decade opportunity to strengthen Indoor Environment Quality

Position of industry and professional associations

On 11 October 2017, the Parliament's Industry committee will adopt its report on the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

With one in six Europeans living in unhealthy buildings¹, 2 million healthy years are lost in the EU every year due to poor indoor air quality. This review is a once-in-a-decade opportunity to drive much needed changes and improvements in the existing building stock and to promote systems and solutions that result in higher Indoor Environment Quality (i.e. indoor air quality, thermal comfort, lighting and acoustic environment), lower energy consumption and increase consumer empowerment.

In that context, our associations echo the call of the health community and jointly urge Members of the European Parliament to pay due consideration to Indoor Environment Quality for the sake of citizens' health, comfort and productivity and to support amendments that:

- 1. Ensure compliance with the provisions of the existing and revised EPBD to promote refurbishment and create the regulatory conditions for improved Indoor Environment Quality.**
- 2. Set regular inspections and continuous commissioning, monitoring and control functionalities of technical building systems to achieve healthier buildings.**
- 3. Enhance the ability of occupants and of the building itself to maintain a higher Indoor Environment Quality in actual building usage conditions, and to optimize energy costs.**
- 4. Set up requirements to ensure the deployment of smart technologies such as building automation and controls which, by improving indoor environment quality, have positive impact on health and well-being of its occupants.**

As buildings are getting more air-tight and better insulated, it is essential to ensure that sufficient fresh air is introduced to keep occupants healthy and to protect the building condition. Indoor Environment Quality can be enhanced through use of mechanical ventilation and technical building systems which, when properly maintained, inspected and controlled (including the leakage of ventilation ducts at regular intervals) will deliver positive outcomes on health, productivity and comfort.

¹ [Healthy Homes Barometer 2017](#)



Despite significant scientific evidence on the health benefits of improved Indoor Environment Quality in residential and non-residential buildings, the EPBD has so far been implemented with insufficient consideration to IEQ. Solutions are readily available and include source control, dedicated mechanical ventilation technology, air conditioning, building automation and control, adequate filtration of incoming air as well as room temperature, humidity, CO₂ level, and lighting controls.

About AREA: AREA represents European refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump contractors. Established in 1989, AREA voices the interests of 23 national associations from 20 countries representing 13,000 companies employing 110,000 people and with an annual turnover approaching € 23 billion.

About EHPA: The Brussels based European Heat Pump Association (EHPA) represents the majority of the European heat pump industry. It has currently 110 members from all parts of the industry's value chain: heat pump and component manufacturers, research institutes, universities, testing labs and energy agencies. Its key goal is to promote awareness and proper deployment of heat pump technology in the European market place for residential, commercial and industrial application. EHPA coordinates the European Quality label for heat pumps and the EUCERT education and training scheme for heat pump installers. It compiles the annual sales statistics and market outlook. For more information, please visit: www.ehpa.org.

About EPEE: The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment ([EPEE](http://www.epee.eu)) represents the heating, cooling, refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump industry in Europe. Founded in the year 2000, EPEE's membership is composed of 40 member companies, national and international associations. EPEE member companies realise a turnover of over 30 billion Euros, employ more than 200,000 people in Europe and also create indirect employment through a vast network of small and medium-sized enterprises such as contractors who install, who service and maintain our equipment. EPEE members have manufacturing sites and research and development facilities across the EU, which innovate for the global market.

About eu.bac: eu.bac is the European Building Automation and Controls Association. It represents the major European manufacturers of products and systems for home and building automation. Its vision is a world where energy efficient, sustainable, healthy and comfortable buildings are achieved through the optimal application of home and building controls, automation systems and services. eu.bac has founded the European Association of Energy Services Companies (eu.esco) for promoting Energy Performance Contracting as the economically sustainable solution for improving the energy performance of existing buildings using the guaranteed energy savings to pay for the installation. For a full and updated overview of our membership, please see www.eubac.org.

About EUHA: The Electric Underfloor Heating Alliance – EUHA – promotes electric underfloor heating as an affordable and efficient part of the solution for the objective of decarbonized buildings within a new smart electricity grid infrastructure. The Alliance brings forward well-performing, higher efficiency electric underfloor heating systems, providing cost-effective, affordable and efficient comfort heating. The future is electric, and sparks with opportunities to improve how we live and how we consume. Electric underfloor



heating is one of the best placed technologies to answer tomorrow's demands for comfort and sustainability. EUHA works in close cooperation with the EU institutions and other stakeholders while providing information and advice on how to improve the sustainability of the systems. The Electric Underfloor Heating Alliance EUHA stands for building regulations that make the best of the future.

About Eurovent: Eurovent is Europe's Industry Association for Indoor Climate (HVAC), Process Cooling, and Food Cold Chain Technologies. Its members from throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa represent more than 1.000 companies, the majority small and medium-sized manufacturers. Based on objective and verifiable data, these account for a combined annual turnover of more than 30bn EUR, employing around 150.000 people within the association's geographic area. This makes Eurovent one of the largest cross-regional industry committees of its kind. The organisation's activities are based on highly valued democratic decision-making principles, ensuring a level-playing field for the entire industry independent from organisation sizes or membership fees. Eurovent's roots date back to 1958. Over the years, the Brussels-based organisation has become a well-respected and known stakeholder that builds bridges between manufacturers it represents, associations, legislators and standardisation bodies on a national, regional and international level. While Eurovent strongly supports energy-efficient and sustainable technologies, it advocates a holistic approach that also integrates health, life and work quality as well as safety aspects. Eurovent holds in-depth relations with partner associations around the globe. It is a founding member of the ICARHMA network, supporter of REHVA, and contributor to various EU and UN initiatives. Website: <https://eurovent.eu/>

About EVIA: The European Ventilation Industry Association (EVIA) was established in Brussels in July 2010. EVIA's mission is to represent the views and interests of the ventilation industry and serve as a platform between all the relevant European stakeholders involved in the ventilation sector, such as decision-makers at the EU level as well as our partners in EU Member States. Our membership is composed of more than 35 member companies and 6 national associations across Europe, realising an annual turnover of over 7 billion euros and employing more than 45,000 people in Europe.

About GCP Europe: [GCP Europe](#) is the voice of the efficient building engineering services at EU level – heating & cooling, ventilation, air condition and plumbing systems in buildings including smart controls, metering and system integration. With 18 member associations in 14 countries which represent an employment figure of over 1 Million people and an annual turnover of over € 100 Billion, GCP Europe is a powerful network in this sector in Europe.

About REHVA: REHVA, the Federation of European HVAC Associations, founded 1963, joins European associations in the area of building engineering services representing more than 100.000 HVAC engineers and building professionals. REHVA is the leading independent professional HVAC organization in Europe, dedicated to the improvement of health, comfort and energy efficiency in all buildings and communities. It encourages the development and application of both energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.