

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

The Parliament is due to vote in plenary in March on a report from the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) on the proposal to revise the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, part of the 'fit for 55' package. Once adopted, this will set Parliament's position for trilogue negotiations with the Council.

Background

In December 2021, the European Commission proposed a [revision](#) to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), as part of the 'fit for 55' package, to meet a minimum 55 % EU reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030, now legally required under the 2021 [European Climate Law](#). **This EPBD revision sets out how the EU can achieve a zero-emission and fully decarbonised building stock by 2050, in particular by increasing the rate of renovation for the worst-performing buildings in each EU Member State.**

European Commission proposal

As of 2030, all new buildings in the EU must be zero-emission (2027 for all new public buildings). **To ensure more harmonised standards across Member States, minimum energy performance standards will be set at EU level. Non-residential buildings with the lowest (class G) energy performance certificate (EPC) will need to be renovated to at least class F by 2027 and at least class E by 2030. Meanwhile, all class G residential buildings will need to reach class F by 2030 and class E by 2033. In future, EPC class G must cover at least 15 % of buildings in each Member State,** while lower class EPCs (D-G) would be issued for only 5 years.

Council of the EU position

The Council of the EU adopted a [general approach](#) (negotiating position) during a meeting of energy ministers on 25 October 2022. This would require all new buildings to be zero-emission from 2030 (2028 for all new buildings owned by public bodies). Exceptions would be possible for some types of building, including historical ones, places of worship and buildings used for defence purposes. Residential buildings would need to meet a D class by 2033 and higher standards by 2040 or 2050 based on national trajectories towards zero-emission building stocks. Non-residential buildings would need to meet **maximum energy performance thresholds**, based on primary energy use and determined according to 15-25% of the worst performing energy stock in each Member State. Class A EPCs would apply to zero-emission buildings; a new A+ class would apply to zero-emission buildings contributing on-site renewable energy to the grid.

European Parliament position

The ITRE committee adopted its [report](#) on 9 February 2023. This would set an earlier deadline for all new buildings to be zero-emission (2028), and apply this obligation from 2026 to all new buildings occupied, operated or owned by public authorities. All new buildings should be equipped with solar technologies by 2028, where feasible (2032 for residential buildings undergoing major renovation). Residential buildings would need to reach EPC class E by 2030, and class D by 2033. Non-residential and public buildings would have to achieve the same classes by 2027 and 2030 respectively. A limited set of exemptions would apply to certain categories of building, including public social housing, where renovations would lead to rent increases that were not compensated by greater savings on energy bills. Fossil fuels in new heating systems would be totally phased out by 2035, unless the Commission allowed their installation until 2040.

First-reading report: [2021/0426 \(COD\)](#); Committee responsible: ITRE; Rapporteur: Ciarán Cuffe (Greens/EFA, Ireland). For further information see our 'EU Legislation in progress' [briefing](#).



EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

Author: Alex Wilson, Members' Research Service
PE 739.377 – March 2023



This document is prepared for, and addressed to, the Members and staff of the European Parliament as background material to assist them in their parliamentary work. The content of the document is the sole responsibility of its author(s) and any opinions expressed herein should not be taken to represent an official position of the Parliament. Reproduction and translation for non-commercial purposes are authorised, provided the source is acknowledged and the European Parliament is given prior notice and sent a copy. © European Union, 2023

epres@ep.europa.eu (contact) <http://www.epres.ep.parl.union.eu> (intranet) <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank> (internet) <http://eptthinktank.eu> (blog)