



Moving towards low energy and keeping building diversity

Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (AAC) producers support an ambitious drive towards low-energy buildings, but warn against excessive harmonisation and potentially negative consequences on architectural diversity.

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The European Autoclaved Aerated Concrete Association (EAACA) welcomes the ambitious proposal to recast the **Directive on the energy performance of buildings** (EPBD), which translates the very high potential for savings in the buildings sector into far-reaching though achievable actions. We believe the European Commission's proposal duly responds to the urgency of climate change, while also emphasising the concept of "cost-optimal" levels of performance, which is particularly important in times of economic difficulties.

We appreciate the intense work conducted by the European Parliament in first reading to streamline the initial proposal, reinforce some of its ambitions, and underline the importance of addressing financial aspects of energy efficiency. The AAC industry provides ideal solutions for low-energy and low carbon emission buildings, and naturally welcomes the emphasis on energy efficiency.

However, our industry shares some of the concerns already expressed by certain Member State delegations as to the perhaps overly ambitious and unrealistic nature of the Parliament's amendments. In our area of expertise, the following issues are of particular importance:

- We endorse the objective of progressively aligning methods to calculate **minimum energy performance requirements** across the EU. However, imposing a single methodology within a short timeframe, as suggested by the Parliament, is too ambitious at this stage. Available standards have not been tested enough in the past or experienced in practice, so a sufficient testing and a long-term coexistence phases would be needed before introducing a common methodology.
- EAACA actively supports the Commission's idea of national roadmaps for the development of **low-energy buildings**. The competing definition of "net zero energy buildings", introduced by the Parliament, fails to address the main objective of the Directive, namely energy efficiency, while focussing on renewable energy. Furthermore, the principle of having a harmonised single EU-wide definition of such buildings neglects climatic and architectural diversity in Europe and may result in advantaging one technology over others.

EAACA calls upon the new Swedish Presidency of the Council and the Member States to ensure a balanced Directive, maintaining the necessary ambitions put forward by the Commission, and reinforced by the Parliament, but also avoiding unfeasible and counterproductive requirements. We stay at your disposal for any further information.

For further information, please visit www.eaaca.org

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