



EUROPEAN AUTOCLAVED AERATED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION  
ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE DES FABRICANTS DE BETON CELLULAIRE  
VERBAND DER EUROPÄISCHEN PORENBETONINDUSTRIE

## Better performing and affordable buildings, for a low-energy future!



On 17 February, the European Autoclaved Aerated Concrete Association (EAACA) organised a debate in Brussels, hosted by Mrs Silvia-Adriana Țicău, the Member of the European Parliament managing the work on energy efficiency of buildings, to discuss sustainable building solutions for a low-energy future.

A selected audience of MEPs and representatives from Member State Permanent Representations, European Commission, political advisers and other Parliament services participated in this very topical debate, as the institutions are proceeding with an update of the major Directive on energy performance of buildings (EPBD).

The Chairman of EAACA, Jos Cox, insisted on Europe's leadership role in setting political objectives for energy and climate. He called for an innovation-friendly environment to facilitate the development of sustainable building solutions at an affordable price, particularly in view of the current economic situation. Mr Cox warmly welcomed the Commission's proposed recast of the EPBD, which provides good tools to achieve ambitious energy saving targets, while avoiding a too prescriptive approach to the thermal design of buildings.



Mrs Pirjo-Liisa Koskimäki, a head of unit in charge of energy efficiency at the European Commission, presented the main changes foreseen in the recast of the EPBD, particularly the gradual and ambitious transition to low-energy buildings, which will enable substantial energy savings in Europe while providing a framework best adapted to local climatic and architectural conditions.



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The host MEP, Mrs Țicău, rightly pointed out the importance of making energy efficient solutions affordable for the consumers, in particular through financial incentives. EAACA representatives supported this approach, stressing that sustainable construction products contributing to climate change mitigation should be eligible to such incentives, in order to give a clear signal for the deployment of low-energy building



solutions. Reduced rates of VAT were one of the tools proposed by the participants. Jos Cox acknowledged that the renovation of existing buildings obviously represents a major potential for energy savings, yet the demolition and replacement of poorly-performing buildings may represent a sustainable and cost-effective solution in certain cases, and should thus also be eligible for financial incentives.



EAACA's Vice-Chairman, Cliff Fudge, called for a balanced design of material, which not only is low-energy but also can withstand the future climate challenges, such as higher summer temperatures, stronger winds, more frequent flooding and other extraordinary weather events. Resilience, passive heating and cooling are some of the strengths of AAC building structures. As Mr Fudge underlined, we should not forget that we are building today for tomorrow's needs.