

RE: Call to vote for an EPBD that supports a fossil fuel and gas phase-out from buildings this decade.

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

On 14 March, as an elected Member of the European Parliament, you will vote on the European Parliament's position on the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD). With this letter, the 12 signatory organisations call on you to support a true phase-out of fossil fuels and any form of gas-based heating from buildings by the end of this decade. To guarantee this, we call for MEPs to 1) support the compromise text, 2) vote to reject relevant provisions of the compromise text to close fossil-fuel and gas phase-out loopholes within the compromise text, and 3) reject amendments diluting the EPBD's ambition on decarbonising heating and the energy use of buildings overall.

The current proposal rightly introduces several strong measures to support the decarbonisation of buildings. Still, significant loopholes concerning 'fossil-fuel systems' are included that risk undermining efforts to decarbonise new and existing buildings. In fact, by promoting false solutions which run on "renewable fuels", the loopholes will sustain the use of fossil fuels through the installation and use of another generation of conventional gas boilers disguised as "hydrogen or biogas-ready boilers". In short, the current provisions on renewable fuels, hybrid systems, and fossil-fuel systems will undermine efforts to transition the world's single largest gas market (EU buildings) to clean, renewable, and sustainable energy use by 2050.

If agreed upon in the final revision of the EPBD, the heating systems promoted will be expensive, inefficient, inadequate, unsuitable, unsafe, and unsustainable for heating buildings. Moreover, the loopholes will negatively impact national building policies, weaken Ecodesign Regulation on space and water heaters, jeopardise the 'Fit-for-55-package', and undermine EU decarbonisation targets, with severe implications for climate change and EU citizens.

The socio-economic implications are alarming too. These loopholes would again lock the EU into gas dependency through the rollout and maintenance of climate-incompatible heating systems and unnecessary gas infrastructure, guaranteeing EU homeowners and tenants a gas-reliant future. Consequently, EU citizens will pay extra for false innovations that will inevitably lead to future energy, climate, and health costs, while fossil-fuel firms and regimes continue to benefit.

Instead, the full support of the European Parliament should be for clean, renewable, and efficient energy to power directly electrified building technical systems for heating and cooling, using heat pumps and solar energy, among others. Therefore, the signatories of this letter call again for you to 1) support the compromise text, 2) vote to reject relevant provisions of the compromise text to close fossil-fuel and gas phase-out loopholes within the compromise text, and 3) reject amendments diluting the EPBD's ambition on decarbonising heating and the energy use of buildings overall.

Signed,

