

# European Policy Update - EPBD trilogues

# EPBD trilogues update

- The third EPBD trilogue meeting took place on **12 October**
- The meeting saw discussion of some of the most controversial elements of the EPBD, including Minimum Energy Performance Standards, Energy Performance Certificates and Zero Emission Buildings, as well as Whole Life Carbon.
- Inflexibility of Council in discussions led to significant concessions on MEPS and ZEB in particular - Cuffe called the text agreed upon a “fair compromise that can be supported by all groups in Parliament and the Member States in Council.”
- Most positive was agreement around Whole Life Carbon reporting and limit values
- Progress was sufficient in this trilogue for a date for the next political trilogue to be set as **8 December**, following 3 or four technical meetings before that

# Minimum Energy Performance Standards

- Concession to Member States on MEPS: an average approach over the whole building stock will be used instead of EU renovation requirements on individual buildings based on harmonised energy classes
  - Member States will design MEPS and select building segments and renovation depth according to national energy class system, and national renovation trajectory.
- Majority of renovations (55%) needs to be achieved among worst performing buildings, which are defined as the 43% lowest performing buildings of the national stock,
- A fixed % (tbc in final trilogue) of average primary energy savings will have to be reached by 2030 and 2035 respectively, with national strategies determining the subsequent renovation efforts in line with the objective of a zero emission building stock by 2050.
- Parliament made clear that it does not want to fall behind the ambition level of the Commission proposal in terms of savings achieved and buildings renovated.

# Zero Emission Buildings

- This has also been watered down, with no flexibility shown by Council in negotiations
- ZEB standard for new buildings will now be set at national level, according to Member States cost optimality calculations - which has to be at least 10% better performing than NZEB
- While ZEBs may not cause any on-site emissions from fossil fuels, different options for powering and heating/cooling buildings are allowed in line with general decarbonisation requirements:
  - On-site renewables
  - Renewables from an energy communities
  - Energy from efficient district heating and cooling systems
- If technically and economically not feasible, other energy from the grid may also be used for ZEBs.
- Also agreed on ban subsidies for stand-alone fossil fuel boilers from 2025, with an exemption for current EU funding programmes.

# Energy Performance Certificates

- No harmonisation of the national energy class systems, while a common template for EPCs applies.
- Certificates will run from A to G, with possibility for Member States to include A+ category for buildings that are better than ZEBs, such as passive houses for example.
- The validity of certificates stays at 10 years, while building owners of low performing buildings shall get an invitation to their closest one stop shop for renovation advice

# Whole Life Carbon

- Agreement on Whole Life Carbon is similar to European Parliament position, with the following timeline:

**2025:** delegated act for harmonised approach on WLC reporting

**2027:** deadline for Member States to develop roadmap with WLC maximum values set at national level

**2028:** mandatory WLC reporting for new public buildings

**2030:** mandatory WLC reporting for all new buildings and Member States have to introduce maximum WLC values for all new buildings