



26.4.2017

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings (COM(2016)0765 – C8-0499/2016 – 2016/0381(COD))

Rapporteur: Anneli Jäätteenmäki

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Commission proposal tries to increase the energy efficiency of the European building stock and to contribute positively to the EU climate goals. The chosen method is to enhance implementation of the existing directive and to propose some provisions that go beyond the current situation. Putting energy efficiency first is rightly restated as the guiding principle.

Given the slow annual renovation rate of European buildings (around 0,4-1,2% depending on the Member State) and the complex interplay between EU legislation, national building codes, building practices, economic trends and the ownership structure of the building stock, there still remains enormous untapped energy saving potential. In light of the current trend, the coming years will not radically change the situation.

Without further measures, energy efficiency renovations will be carried out when they are economically reasonable and have the proper incentives in place in order to incentivise reaching the energy efficiency goals.

It is important that the Member States know their building stock and thus help the different actors to prioritise the renovations based on cost-efficiency. This is encouraged in the amendment to Article 2 on the long-term renovation strategies.

Currently, there is an urgent need for widely available financing products that would include and support the positive aspects of energy efficiency renovations, such as the higher asset value and healthier living conditions for the occupants. The Commission's efforts in enabling financing, such as the “Smart Finance for Smart Buildings” initiative are to be encouraged.

The rapporteur would like to stress two major issues: healthy building and the Commission proposal on electro-mobility.

First, one cannot overstate the importance of healthy buildings. A healthy building is designed to fulfil the needs of its occupants and can be modified to accommodate future needs. It is constructed from durable, repairable and recyclable non-toxic materials. It uses energy efficiently and might also produce it, has sufficient natural light and is ventilated and heated properly to maintain good indoor air quality and temperature.

Nowadays, most people spend most of their time indoors. According to estimates, tens of millions of Europeans suffer from bad indoor air quality, often because of excessive dampness, which encourages the growth of mould and can also cause structural damage to the building.

The range of affected buildings varies from private dwellings to public buildings. The way buildings are built and maintained has huge effects on public health and the well-being of the whole population.

Energy inefficient houses and energy poverty are intimately linked. If the housing estates postpone the necessary renovations due to lack of financing, they risk further degrading of the living conditions and also decrease the value of the housing stock.

For the rapporteur, the second major issue is the proposal on electro-mobility, introduced in

the amended Article 8.

The proposition includes all new non-residential buildings and existing non-residential buildings undergoing major renovation with more than ten parking spaces. Newly built residential buildings and those undergoing major renovations are also included. For the first category, at least 10 % of the parking spaces should be equipped with a recharging point. For the second category, every parking space should be equipped with pre-cabling.

In the rapporteur's view, the charging infrastructure obligations proposed by the Commission undermine the efficient allocation of both private and public money.

Currently, charging technology is being developed at a fast pace. Many Member States have already taken steps to build the charging infrastructure. The cost of a charging point is decreasing. Private companies and public utilities have viable business cases for building the network and pricing electric vehicle charging.

For new buildings, both non-residential and residential, the necessary infrastructure can be integrated to the design process from the beginning. It is therefore wise to make new buildings future proof by ducting. This would leave sufficient flexibility for the sizing of the cabling and ensure that the necessary charging infrastructure can easily be built when needed.

For existing non-residential buildings, the obligation should be relaxed to apply only in cases where the renovation concerns electric infrastructure of the building. This would help to keep the return for investment for the actual energy efficiency improvements higher.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a directive

Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) The Union is committed to developing a secure, competitive and decarbonised energy system by 2050¹². To meet this goal, Member States and investors need milestones to ensure that buildings are decarbonised by 2050. In order to ensure this decarbonised building stock by 2050, Member States should identify the intermediary steps to achieving the mid-term (2030) and long-term (2050) objectives.

Amendment

(6) The Union is committed to developing a secure, competitive and decarbonised energy system by 2050¹². To meet this goal, Member States and investors need milestones to ensure that buildings are decarbonised by 2050. In order to ensure this decarbonised building stock by 2050, Member States should identify the intermediary steps to achieving the mid-term (2030) and long-term (2050) objectives *and stimulating the renovation*

rate of the existing building stock.

¹² Communication on an Energy roadmap 2050, (COM(2011) 885 final).

¹² Communication on an Energy roadmap 2050, (COM(2011) 885 final).

Or. en

Amendment 2

Proposal for a directive Recital 7 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(7a) The construction of new buildings and the renovation of existing buildings should aim to create buildings that fulfil the needs of occupants and that can be modified to accommodate future needs, that are constructed from durable, repairable and recyclable non-toxic materials, that use energy efficiently and that could also produce energy, that have sufficient natural light, and that are ventilated and heated properly to maintain a healthy indoor environment.

Or. en

Amendment 3

Proposal for a directive Recital 7 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(7b) As the building stock in the Union is being modernised to a higher level of energy efficiency, it is also becoming more complex. For low-energy buildings, this often means increasing sensitivity for defects during their whole lifetime. There is an increasing need for cooperation between the different professionals on-

site. Encouragement for systemic thinking should start from the educational system and continue throughout the careers of builders.

Or. en

Amendment 4

Proposal for a directive Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) To ensure their best use in building renovation, financial measures related to energy efficiency should be linked to the depth of the renovation, which should be assessed by comparing energy performance certificates (EPCs) issued before and after the renovation.

Amendment

(13) To ensure their best use in building renovation, financial measures related to energy efficiency should be linked to the depth of the renovation, which should be assessed by comparing energy performance certificates (EPCs) issued before and after the renovation. ***Energy efficiency improvements should be considered as a whole in order to ensure that all parts and technical systems, including building maintenance, result in a high level of energy efficiency.***

Or. en

Amendment 5

Proposal for a directive Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

(18) The provisions of this Directive should not prevent Member States from setting more ambitious energy performance requirements at building level and for building elements as long as such measures are compatible with Union law. It is consistent with the objectives of this Directive and of Directive 2012/27/EC that these requirements may, in certain

Amendment

(18) The provisions of this Directive should not prevent Member States from setting more ambitious energy performance ***and indoor environmental quality*** requirements at building level and for building elements as long as such measures are compatible with Union law. It is consistent with the objectives of this Directive and of Directive 2012/27/EC that

circumstances, limit the installation or use of products subject to other applicable Union harmonisation legislation, provided that such requirements should not constitute an unjustifiable market barrier.

these requirements may, in certain circumstances, limit the installation or use of products subject to other applicable Union harmonisation legislation, provided that such requirements should not constitute an unjustifiable market barrier.

Or. en

Amendment 6

Proposal for a directive

Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 1

Directive 2010/31/EU

Article 2 – point 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. ‘technical building system’ means technical equipment for space heating, space cooling, ventilation, domestic hot water, built-in lighting, building automation and control, on-site electricity generation, on-site infrastructure for electro-mobility, or a combination of such systems, including those using energy from renewable sources, of a building or building unit;;

Amendment

3. ‘technical building system’ means technical equipment for space heating, space cooling, ventilation, domestic hot water, built-in lighting, building automation and control, ***elevators and escalators***, on-site electricity generation, on-site infrastructure for electro-mobility, or a combination of such systems, including those using energy from renewable sources, of a building or building unit;;

Or. en

Justification

Elevators and escalators use energy and can be used to store it. They should thus be included in the list.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a directive

Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 2 – point a

Directive 2010/31/EU

Article 2a – paragraph 1

(a) the first paragraph consists of Article 4 of the Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency, other than its last subparagraph;

(a) paragraph 1 is inserted as follows:

“1. Member States shall establish a long-term renovation strategy for mobilising investment in the renovation of the national stock of residential and commercial buildings, both public and private, with the aim of encouraging and guiding the decarbonisation of the building stock by 2050. This strategy shall encompass:

(a) an overview of the national building stock based, as appropriate, on statistical sampling;

(b) identification of cost-effective approaches to renovations relevant to the building type and climatic zone;

(c) policies and measures to stimulate cost-effective deep renovations of buildings, including staged deep renovations;

(d) the introduction of individual building renovation passports or similar measures;

(e) a forward-looking perspective to guide investment decisions of individuals, the construction industry and financial institutions;

(f) an evidence-based estimate of expected energy savings and wider benefits.

Or. en

Justification

A building renovation passport is a document that plans a long-term renovation roadmap for any given building. In some Member States, housing companies are already obliged by the law to produce and update such a roadmap. It will typically include analysis on reparation and renovation of heating, sanitation, ventilation, electricity and communication systems. In addition, it often includes window, façade and roof renovation plans and elevator renovation

plans, when applicable.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a directive

Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 3 a (new)

Directive 2010/31/EU

Article 7 – paragraph 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3a) In Article 7, the following paragraph is inserted after the fourth paragraph:

“Member States shall ensure that energy performance upgrades also contribute to achieving a healthy indoor environment.”

Or. en

Justification

As many people spend most of their time indoors, a healthy indoor environment is of utmost importance. Poor indoor air quality is a major factor behind asthma and allergies, causes irritation and interferes with learning in schools, for example. Tightly sealed low-energy houses are particularly risky as their indoor air quality is very dependent on proper functioning of the ventilation system.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a directive

Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 5 – point b

Directive 2010/31/EU

Article 8 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Member States shall ensure that in all new non-residential buildings and in all existing non-residential buildings undergoing major renovation with more than ten parking spaces, at least one of every ten is **equipped with a recharging point** within the meaning of Directive 2014/94/EU on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure¹⁷, **which is capable of starting and stopping charging in reaction**

Member States shall ensure that in all new non-residential buildings and in all existing non-residential buildings undergoing major renovation, **insofar as the renovation measures include electric infrastructure**, with more than ten parking spaces **inside or physically adjacent to the building**, at least one of every ten is **ducted to enable the installation of recharging points for electric vehicles**, within the meaning of

to price signals. This requirement shall apply to all non-residential buildings, with more than ten parking spaces, as of 1 January 2025.

¹⁷ OJ L 307, 28.10.2014, p. 1

Directive 2014/94/EU on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure¹⁷. This requirement shall apply to all non-residential buildings, with more than ten parking spaces, as of 1 January 2025.

¹⁷ OJ L 307, 28.10.2014, p. 1

Or. en

Justification

Energy efficiency renovations and the electro-mobility building obligation should be kept separate. Without the targeting, the viability of actual energy efficiency improvements would unnecessarily suffer as the return on investment would be lower. A charging point does not make the building per se more energy efficient. While the rapporteur warmly supports the transition to electric mobility, building measures should mainly be market-based. A blanket obligation without the market mechanism can result to underused and misplaced charging points.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a directive

Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 5 – point b

Directive 2010/31/EU

Article 8 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Member States shall ensure that ***newly built*** residential buildings and those undergoing major renovations, with more than ten parking spaces, ***include the pre-cabling*** to enable the installation of recharging points for electric vehicles for every parking space.

Amendment

3. Member States shall ensure that ***new*** residential buildings and those undergoing major renovations, with more than ten parking spaces ***inside or physically adjacent to the building, include ducting*** to enable the installation of recharging points for electric vehicles for every parking space.

Or. en

Justification

The amendment would ease the obligation and leave the technical specifications, such as the sizing of the power cable, to be decided later.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a directive

Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 6 – point a

Directive 2010/31/EU

Article 10 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. Member States shall link their financial measures for energy efficiency improvements in the renovation of buildings to the energy savings achieved due to such renovation. These savings shall be determined by comparing energy performance certificates issued before and after renovation.

Amendment

6. Member States shall link their financial measures for energy efficiency improvements in the renovation of buildings to the energy savings achieved due to such renovation. These savings shall be determined by comparing energy performance certificates issued before and after renovation ***or using similar instruments such as individual building renovation passports or new energy performance measurements.***

Or. en

Justification

More flexibility should be allowed to determine the savings as long as the methods are reliable and cost-efficient.

Amendment 12

Proposal for a directive

Annex I – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point b

Directive 2010/31/EU

Annex I – point 2 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The energy needs for space heating, space cooling, domestic hot water and adequate ventilation shall be calculated in order to ensure minimum health and comfort levels defined by Member States.

Amendment

The energy needs for space heating, space cooling, domestic hot water and adequate ventilation shall be calculated in order to ensure minimum health and comfort levels defined by Member States. ***Particular attention shall be paid to avoiding the temperature on any inner surface of the building dropping below the dew-point temperature.***

Or. en

Justification

According to estimates, tens of millions of Europeans suffer from bad indoor air quality, often because of excessive dampness, which encourages the growth of mould and can also cause structural damage to the building. If the temperature of any inner surface of the building drops below the dew point temperature, water vapour condenses into liquid water, creating a mould-friendly environment. To avoid this, the building envelope has to be homogeneously and adequately insulated, properly ventilated and sufficiently heated. Thermal bridges have to be avoided.