The Commission is revising the ecodesign implementing regulation on space heaters\(^1,2\). As announced in the REPowerEU initiative\(^3\), ecodesign requirements for space heaters, that would increase the minimum energy efficiency requirements to a level that would effectively phase out new stand-alone boilers by 2029, are being considered. In April 2023, a draft was discussed with the Consultation Forum\(^4\). The technology neutral requirements would not regulate the type of fuel and would keep high efficiency fuel solutions on the market (gas heat pumps, combinations of gas boilers and solar thermal panels or heat pumps, micro-cogeneration).

The Commission estimates that heat pumps will become the most cost-effective solution in the EU by 2030, in all sizes (up to 1 megawatt). However, current purchase and installation costs are higher than for boilers. Accordingly, subsidy schemes, including means-tested ones, are in place in several Member States\(^5\). There may be specific situations for which installing alternatives to gas boilers could be difficult and/or very expensive and for that reason, the Commission is consulting on possible exemptions\(^6\).

Many factors affect property prices and the Commission has not identified significant impacts of the draft measure on real estate prices or on the EU banking system. However, the Commission more generally acknowledges the need to accompany the transition to heat pumps, which can already be supported with EU funds including Cohesion policy funds, the Recovery and Resilience Fund and the REPowerEU chapters, as well as through the national Social Climate Plans. The Commission is preparing a Heat pump Action Plan to support heat pump deployment\(^7\), which is planned to be published at the end of 2023.

---


\(^2\) The scope of the regulation and its revision regard hydronic space heaters including liquid and gaseous fuel boilers and micro-cogeneration, hydronic heat pumps and solar thermal devices; it does not include solid fuel boilers, stoves, direct electric heating or air-to-air heat pumps.

\(^3\) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions EU 'Save Energy', COM/2022/240 final.


\(^6\) The Commission services invited members and observers of the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Consultation Forum to a discussion on 12 June 2023 on identifying technical/building specific situations where stand-alone boilers are still hard or impossible to replace, with the intention to table possible exemptions in the revised regulation.