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DRAFT OPINION

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

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on maximising the energy efficiency potential of the EU's building stock
(2020/0000(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Maria Spyraiki

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the announcement of a renovation wave as part of the European Green Deal; urges the Commission to present it as planned, given that it is a key element of the post-COVID-19 recovery plan; calls on the Member States to step up large-scale renovation plans under the national energy and climate plans (NCEPs);
2. Welcomes the Commission's new Circular Economy Action Plan which highlights the role of construction and building materials in generating over 35 % of the EU's total waste; notes that a streamlined approach should be taken in EU legislation to recovery, recycling, life-cycle assessment and to taking the embodied energy in building materials into account;
3. Believes that a circular economy labelling system, based on environmental standards and criteria for materials linked to their potential for reintroduction into the value chain, should be established;
4. Stresses that there is no common EU legislation on the management of bulky waste in general, and of polystyrene and stone wool in particular; expresses its concern about the safe handling of insulation materials, given the possible inclusion of dangerous substances in them;
5. Notes that building renovation projects should contribute to the potential for better health conditions; emphasises that the revision of air quality standards can lead to improvements in indoor environmental conditions and help tackle energy poverty;
6. Emphasises the potential, in terms of overcoming the current fragmentation in the market, of creating a common energy and environmental building passport; stresses further that it should include the circular capacity of materials;
7. Stresses that homeowners and housing associations should be supported in climate-proofing their building stock, for example through grants or financial instruments based on the additionality of multiannual financial framework (MFF) funding, national budgets and private sector sources;
8. Underlines the role of the European Investment Bank Group in providing loans, guarantees and financial instruments in order to finance small-scale and social housing renovation initiatives and services.