

Topic: DECARBONISATION AND RENOVATION WAVE

Brief description and main aims:

Decarbonisation of the construction industry is a feature of the programme for the European Commission, for the political term which started in December 2019. In the priorities listed by the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, was a “Renovation Wave” aimed at improving the renovation rate for the existing building stock across the EU. The Renovation Wave is considered vital to achieving the updated climate target of 55% reduction in emissions by 2030. This new climate target updated the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement targets, which set out the 20/20/20 goals, namely the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by 20%, the increase of renewable energy’s market share to 20% and a 20% increase in energy efficiency – all by 2030. The purpose of these goals was to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees celsius. However, EU discussions on the “climate emergency” have led to reinforced measures. See also the separate Fact Sheet on the Fit for 55 package.

Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

Historically, decarbonisation of buildings has been tackled by energy efficiency measures, which, by reducing the consumption of energy also reduce emissions. Energy renovation presents an opportunity for contractors. However, the cost of the kind of renovation that really makes a significant difference to energy bills, namely “deep renovation”, is prohibitive for many building owners, in particular of family dwellings. Furthermore, the cost of low carbon materials and the current scarcity of some construction materials will increase the cost of renovation even further in future. FIEC’s position on the Renovation Wave covers seven main themes from the Renovation Wave Communication. FIEC also produced a position on the revision of the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive (see separate fact sheet). As for the Climate Law, FIEC considers that this is more aimed at Member States and does not require a specific position from us.

Actions and key dates:

- 14/10/2020** – [Renovation Wave package](#) published.
- November 2020** – FIEC joined [#BuildingLife Campaign](#), led by World Green Buildings Council
- 02/02/2021** – [FIEC’s position on the Renovation Wave](#) published
- 16/02/21** – Meeting with S&D Political Adviser on FIEC’s position
- 11/03/21** – Meeting with Commissioner Simson’s cabinet on FIEC’s position

Renovation Wave Priorities



Tackling energy
poverty and worst-
performing buildings



Renovation of public
buildings such as schools,
hospitals and public
administrations



Decarbonisation of
heating and cooling



#RenovationWave