

# Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (Recast)

## BACKGROUND

The EPBD aims at improving the energy efficiency and performance of buildings across the EU. The latest revision, Directive 2018/844/EU modified the original version from 2002, which introduced Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) for buildings. The 2018 revision prioritised energy efficiency and supported cost-effective building renovation by *inter alia* incorporating long-term building renovation strategies, promoting smart technologies and infrastructure, and reinforcing EPC requirements. The present proposal for revising the EPBD, which has been agreed upon by member states after the 4<sup>th</sup> and final trilogue, introduces a new definition of zero-emission building and refines existing definitions.

It further replaces the long-term renovation strategies with national building renovation plans. Additionally, the proposal establishes the goal of achieving zero-emission status for all new EU buildings as of 2030, with new public buildings meeting this criterion as of 2028. During the trilogue discussions, an agreement was achieved to incorporate Whole Life Cycle (WLC) reporting into the scope of the EPBD. Consensus was also reached on defining zero-emission buildings (ZEB) and determining the role of one-stop-shops (OSS). Regarding establishing a framework for Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS), each member state is individually responsible for defining these requirements as quickly as possible. Political agreement was also achieved among members regarding several issues such as a fossil fuel boiler phase out by 2040, and mandatory solar installations in residential buildings by 2030. They will also have to renovate the 16% worst-performing non-residential buildings by 2030, according to the MEPS. In the next step, the amendments will have to be approved by EU parliament and EU Council, before they become a European law. [More info](#) here.

## RELEVANCE FOR CONSULTING ENGINEERS

The EPBD significantly affects the consulting engineering sector by shaping building design, construction, and renovation processes and introducing regulations. The revision will introduce new regulations that significantly affect the sector's work. As energy efficiency gains importance in projects, clients seek knowledgeable consulting engineers to ensure compliance and savings.

## KEY DATES

15/12/21	Legislative Proposal
14/03/23	Adoption in Parliament
06/06/23	1 <sup>st</sup> Trilogue meeting
31/08/23	2 <sup>nd</sup> Trilogue meeting
12/10/23	3 <sup>rd</sup> Trilogue meeting
07/12/23	4 <sup>th</sup> Trilogue meeting