**High-Level Meeting on the Renovation Wave**

**European Week of Regions and Cities - 21/10/2020**

**Mr Nicola de Michelis, DG REGIO, Director for Smart Sustainable Growth and Programme Implementation**

[presentation of the speakers]

**Ms Kadri Simson Commissioner for Energy**

Netherlands, Cech Republic & Lithuania are leading the way with their NECPs. We need to develop actions across the EU as a whole. We need a thorough assessment for the timing and the scope for minimal energy performance standards across the EU. 55% emissions reduction means a lot for the most emission emitter sector in the Union. **Renovation Wave will also be part of the regional policy agenda to target action in territories**. **It is regions & cities (regional & local authorities) that will implement the Renovation Wave on the ground.** Renovation Wave will have to be implemented through local value chains. **EED & RED revisions will be presented next year.**

**Ms Elisa Ferreira Commissioner for Cohesion and Reform**

This is a vital topic since buildings are the largest sources of GHG emissions. Regional Policy has long recognised the need to invest in building’s energy efficiency. **At least** **30% of Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and 37% of the Cohesion Fund (CF) will be earmarked for climate-friendly projects** **together with the Just Transition Fund (JTF)**. **Key part of these investments will be spent for energy efficiency of buildings.** We will look for high quality projects with high impact. **We need to ensure that building renovation promotes nature-based solutions.** It will bring better living environment. Renovation is an investment in the quality of life of our citizens. We need renovation not only for EU citizens but with and by EU citizens. **We will not lack money in the next few years the question is how to best use that money!**

**MEP Ciaran Cuffe, Greens/EFA, Ireland, ITRE Committee Rapporteur**

We are sawing the seeds for future growth in the midst of this deadly pandemic. Now we have a clear outline on how to move forward. **We need binding targets that will hold Member States accountable to their climate targets**. All levels need to be involved for a successful renovation wave: European, national regional & local levels.

**Ms Monica Frassoni, President, European Alliance to Save Energy**

We need to support already existing initiatives at local level & integrate the new principles and objectives. Public buildings need to be exemplary.

**Mr Antonio Almagro, Director Energy, European Investment Bank (EIB)**

**European Initiative for building renovation**: to boost investments for energy efficiency in buildings through grants (CF, ERDF, etc), landing, project development assistance (ELENA & JASPERS) and co-financing (4 billion EUR a year to be increased to motivating private financing).

In principle, EIB can support the following types of projects:

* **Renovation projects which improve the energy performance of existing buildings**;
* For **new constructions**, buildings exceeding minimum regulatory requirements, promoting best market practice and in addition contributing to wider public policy goals such as urban regeneration, education, public research or the provision of healthcare services;
* Investments in public lighting, industrial facilities and SMEs.

EIB energy lending policy (November 2019): <https://www.eib.org/attachments/strategies/eib_energy_lending_policy_en.pdf>

**Energy efficiency investments in buildings and industry represent approximately three-quarters of the total energy investment required in the period 2021-30**. The energy efficiency target is expected to reduce overall energy consumption in the EU by 2030 and therefore the investment needs in new energy infrastructure on the supply side.

**Mr Mohamed Ridouani, Mayor of Leuven, Covenant of Mayors**

We want to reach climate neutrality in Leuven by 2030. It is not only about budget or about renewables **it is also about materials**.

**Mr Hans Van Steen DG ENER, Director for Renewables, Research, Innovation and Energy Efficiency**

[mostly remarks on the role of cities/local authorities, technical assistance & energy poverty]

**My question to the panel: How will buildings’ LCAs address the question of material substitution (substitution of carbon/energy intensive materials) so that the built environment becomes a carbon sink?**

**Answer from MEP Ciaran Cuffe:**

**We need to take into account of materials used for construction & renovation**. **There are good technical solutions that can be used for older buildings. We need to look at embodied energy/carbon in the materials we use. We need to focus on materials like wood instead of, for instance, steel. But we don’t have to eliminate any materials. We need to be able to reuse raw materials. We need to think about the whole LCA. We will see more legislation in that area.**

**Answer from Pau Garcia Audi (Policy Officer DG ENER.C.4):**

**The Renovation Wave addresses the need to account for the whole lifecycle of emissions of a building**. It does so from an individual perspective and from a construction sector perspective. For example, **DG ENV is developing the LEVEL(s) assessment framework. This is a tool that will allow for a calculation of building lifecycle emissions. It has recently finished a test-phase. LEVEL(s) latest version just published this morning, with new and more developed indicators for sustainable buildings:**

<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/buildings.htm>