

## **EAE's position on the Commission Communication Adapting to climate change – EU strategy (roadmap)**

The European Association for External Thermal Insulation Composite Systems (EAE) welcomes the European Commission's initiative for a new, more ambitious strategy to better adapt Europe's society and economy to climate change. We encourage the European Commission to go ahead with its strategy to "build-back-better" or to "recover better" after the Covid-19 pandemic. Bringing Europe's economies back on the growth path must not leave the long-term objectives of a carbon neutral EU in 2050 behind.

In the contrary: recent studies and communications demonstrate that a "green recovery" can combine economic growth, job creation, climate protection, and improved health without leaving anyone behind [1], [2]. Together with the findings of the Eurobarometer that a broad majority of citizens agree that adapting to the impacts of climate change can have positive effects for people, the EAE asks the European Commission and Member States to use this momentum for launching ambitious EU and national recovery packages that allow for prevention of and adaption to climate change.

For us highest priority should be on prevention, meaning to limit the impacts of climate change as far as possible. Investing in this prevention would be the most sustainable investment and the best insurance. Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will be key to achieve the ambitious 2050 objectives. The huge aging building stock (around 200 million buildings) offers a great leverage as it stands alone for nearly 40% of Europe's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Accelerating the renovation rate offers a key tool - not only in the fight against climate change [3].

Highly energy efficient buildings reduce energy consumption, reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions levels, bring benefits in different socio-economic dimensions (such as economic growth, job creation, health, well-being, and productivity) [2]. Taking the efficiency-first principle seriously will therefore contribute to limit the negative impacts of climate change as described in the inception impact assessment (e. g. extreme weather conditions, heat waves, storms, floods). Considering the calculated annual losses of at least 170€billion or 1,36% of GDP in case the EU economy is faced with a global warming of 3°C, we strongly believe that investing this amount of money in preventive measures finally pays off – especially considering our responsibility for future generations. Moreover, in view of the economic recovery latest findings state that investing 1 million€ in energy renovation crates 18 jobs in the EU economy [1] at average.

We believe that especially the following areas of action should be in focus:

- improve knowledge of climate impacts (e. g. through increased awareness and better access to knowledge of individual and collective climate risks);
- accelerate action with a focus on solutions (in addition to understanding), on deploying innovation (in addition to research), on implementation (in addition to planning), and especially on prevention (in addition to ex-post);

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- review of incentives/disincentives to resilience investments through EU and Member State policy frameworks;
- greater focus on the development and deployment of adaptation solutions through the Horizon Europe mission on Adaptation and Societal Transformation and other EU Funds.

Reflecting the current situation focus should be on strengthening the implementation and market uptake of already existing solutions to achieve immediate effects. Renovation Europe's call for a "Renovation Fund for All Europeans", signed by 125 supporters from across Europe, aims to facilitate such immediate action [4].

The members of the European Association for External Thermal Insulation Composite Systems (EAE) stand ready to support the European institutions and Member States. Through exchange with our partner associations in Canada, China, Japan, and the United States we might also support EU's respective initiatives on a global level.

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Ralf Pasker, Managing Director

## Links

- [1] Building Renovation: a kick-starter for the EU economy, BPIE study published by Renovate Europe, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020, <https://www.renovate-europe.eu/2020/06/10/building-renovation-a-kick-starter-for-the-eu-economy/>
- [2] Making the EU Renovation Wave a Success, Renovate Europe, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, <https://www.renovate-europe.eu/about-the-campaign/preparing-the-renovation-wave/>
- [3] 10 reasons to renovate Europe, Renovate Europe Campaign, <https://www.renovate-europe.eu/about-the-campaign/10reasonstorenovate/>
- [4] Renovation Fund For All Europeans, Renovate Europe, <https://www.renovate-europe.eu/about-the-campaign/renovation-fund-for-all-europeans/>

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## About EAE

The European Association for External Thermal Insulation Composite Systems (EAE) is formed by 12 national ETICS associations, 6 important European components' associations and 11 supporting company members. The EAE represents about 80 per cent of Europe's revenue from ETICS. The European ETICS market includes international operating companies as well as hundreds of SMEs.

The EAE represents the ETICS business in CEN and EOTA working groups as well as in public consultations of the European Commission. EAE is a member of Construction Products Europe (CPE), the European Council for Construction Research, Development and Innovation (ECCREDI), the Construction 2050 Alliance, and supporter of the Renovate Europe Campaign. Furthermore, EAE is in contact with associations and initiatives beyond European borders. The association holds liaisons with the EIFS Council of Canada, the China Association of Building Energy Efficiency (CABEE), the Japanese Association for Housing Thermal Insulation Technology Coop. (NDJK) and the EIFS Industry Members Association (EIMA) in the United States of America.

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