



Energy Performance of Buildings in European Hospitality – we call for a balanced approach!

The European Commission's Energy Performance of Buildings Directive is a crucial step in the roadmap towards a carbon-free Europe by 2050. While welcoming it, HOTREC points out that smaller businesses will need guidance and funding to implement the essential infrastructural transformations required.

Did you know that buildings are responsible for 40% of the energy consumption in Europe and contribute to 36% of its energy-related greenhouse gas emissions? Armed with this crucial data, it's evident that a substantial number of European buildings urgently need upgrades to improve energy efficiency. However, achieving this necessary transformation isn't straightforward, especially for hospitality companies operating across Europe.

Let's understand why.

For those familiar with the European hospitality industry, it's no secret that a staggering 99% of businesses in the sector fall under the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (#SMEs) category. These enterprises are the beating heart of European hospitality, infusing the industry with creativity, entrepreneurial spirit, innovation and dynamism. Unfortunately, SMEs are also more susceptible to crises and challenges compared to larger, more structured corporations.

Today, SMEs in the #EUHospitality face several difficulties. Geopolitical instability, for instance, unprecedented labour shortages and increased energy and food costs. The sector is additionally confronted with the need for structural changes amidst the ongoing digital and green transition, which demand substantial investments and a skilled workforce for successful implementation.

Given these circumstances, **how can the Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings best provide support to our companies as they navigate this journey of renovation?**

A balanced approach to the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive is needed! It's crucial to create an environment that supports companies on this transformative journey. Given the circumstances, an **extension of deadlines** would be greatly appreciated to facilitate companies' adaptation. The proposal from the Council to establish the deadline for all new buildings to achieve zero emissions on January 1, 2030, is more realistic and reasonable.

Regarding **Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPs)** for non-residential buildings, a **phased approach with primary energy consumption-based thresholds** should be adopted. Grading should be based on building stock, rather than individual buildings. We find the Commission's proposed grading system balanced, aiming for non-residential buildings to attain at least energy performance class F by 2027 and class E by 2030.

The prospect of **exempting buildings from renovations due to unfavourable cost-benefit assessments** aligns with our perspective. Energy efficiency requirements shouldn't be burdensome for buildings with no future value or lacking financing for renovations.

When it comes to **charging stations**, they **should not be mandatory** as the costs are disproportionate or economically unviable. Charging stations entail substantial investments, and their sustainability over time needs to be considered. We agree with the Parliament's approach, which includes **exemptions for SMEs**.

We also defend flexibility on the promotion of bicycle parking spaces and solar energy solutions: the need for action should be left to Member States.

Lastly, we advocate for a **unified acceptance of all CO2-free energy sources**, irrespective of whether they're produced on-site or supplied by the grid.

We urge co-legislators to craft a **rational approach** to the Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings. Our goal is to make it environmentally sustainable while providing the necessary **support for companies, especially SMEs**, to comply with the legislation effectively.

[HOTREC's position paper](#)

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What is HOTREC?

HOTREC is the umbrella association of Hotels, Restaurants, Bars and Cafés and similar establishments in Europe. It brings together 47 national associations in 36 European countries and serves as the voice of the European hospitality industry. HOTREC's mission is to represent and champion the industry's interests towards the EU and international institutions, foster knowledge sharing and best practices among its members to promote innovation and serve as an expert platform for the hospitality sector.

The **European hospitality industry** is a vital economic contributor, comprising over 1.8 million businesses and employing more than 9 million people. It plays a vital role in driving economic growth and job creation, contributing approximately 2-3% to the total EU GDP. The industry is characterized by a high level of entrepreneurship, with 90% of businesses classified as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). These companies bring innovation, creativity, and a personal touch to the industry.

For further information: www.hotrec.eu

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