



# EUROPEAN BUILDERS CONFEDERATION

*The Voice of Construction Crafts and SMEs in Europe*

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PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

## Energy efficiency of buildings

### Improvements achieved according to construction SMEs

Construction crafts and SMEs represented by the European Builders Confederation (EBC), welcome the official adoption of the recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, voted today by the European Parliament in Strasbourg plenary session. One of the key changes lies in the extension of the scope of the Directive, with the elimination of the 1000m<sup>2</sup> thresholds. This will heavily improve the impact of the Directive and offer great potential for SMEs, since refurbishment requirements will now cover almost all homes.

If this recast directive offers new opportunities, it will at the same time be very challenging. President of EBC, Andrea Marconi recalls: **“it is vital to increase training of the workforce responsible for implementing energy efficiency measures in buildings. That is exactly why I call on Member States to undertake the necessary actions, as foreseen in the recast Directive, to develop information and training schemes and also to come up with a list of financial incentives for both professional and users. Cost-efficient solutions in renovation must be promoted and become a priority.”**

EBC acknowledges that this recast Directive is an improvement to the existing one, but will now closely follow its transposition into national laws to ensure a real implementation of the directive. Especially on the issue of experts authorised to issue energy performance certificates, EBC is committed to ensuring that Member States will not have a too strict interpretation and that they will only take into account their competence. EBC also urges the European Commission to carry out its monitoring role to make sure that the Directive is fully and correctly implemented in each Member States and to make the necessary recommendations to improve the Directive still further.

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Established in 1990, the European Builders Confederation - E.B.C. - is a European professional organisation representing national associations of Craftsmen and SMEs working in the construction sector. Through its national members, E.B.C. represents 600,000 micro, small and medium sized enterprises from the construction sector employing 2.5 million workers.

The construction sector is of vital importance to the European Economy. With 2.3 million enterprises, an annual turnover of almost €1000 billion, a total direct workforce of almost 14 million, the construction sector contributes about 10% to the GDP of the European Union.

**The European construction sector is composed at about 99% of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), who produce 80% of the construction industries output. The small enterprises (less than 50 employees) ensure 60% of the production and employ 70% of the sectors working population.**

**Information to the press:**

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