



Press release

CommONEnergy publishes policy recommendations to integrate commercial buildings into EU legislation

For immediate release

Brussels, June 8 2017 – CommONEnergy, an ongoing 4-year research project funded by the European Union, aims to develop systemic approaches including technology solution-sets, methods and tools to support deep renovations and to assess the environmental and social impact of shopping centres. The project published this week policy recommendations to ensure commercial buildings are properly included into EU legislation, under revision this year.

With a renovation rate of about 4.4% per year, more than 60% of the shopping centre building stock will be upgraded by 2030: this is a unique *trigger point* to realise sustainable energy-saving solutions along the planned aesthetic renovations. The factsheet proposes some recommendations on how to promote the energy transition in this sector and grab the shopping centres' renovation opportunity behind the EPBD revision.

The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) revision is part of the *Clean Energy for All Europeans* policy package, released end of 2016 by the European Commission, now commented by the European Parliament and the Council. June 8 will be an important milestone to know more about what will be decided, as it is the deadline to table amendments to Bentsen's draft opinion, to be followed by the negotiations with the EU Council.

The European project CommONEnergy, aimed at re-conceptualizing shopping centres through deep retrofitting, prepared a policy paper to highlight the important role these commercial buildings could have to reach European sustainability goals if properly included in the EU Directives, through, for instance, the inclusion in shopping centres of e-vehicle charging stations supplied by an increasing share of renewable energy. The use of EVs supports the European Commission's long-term vision to guide the transformation towards a low carbon and resource efficient society, and shopping centres with EV charging stations attract more customers thanks to new services, promote sustainability and improve their image.

Building on the project's demo cases, and giving concrete examples of the benefits coming from the renovation of shopping centres, the recommendations presented in the paper can serve as an important basis for the tabling of amendments to MEP and EPBD Rapporteur Bendtsen's draft, catching the opportunity of a more ambitious revision of the EPBD and a better recognition of the strong role shopping centres can play in achieving the EU energy efficiency targets.

The project will end in September with a final conference and award ceremony in Brussels, September 7.



CommONEnergy

To download the factsheet:

http://commonenergyproject.eu/uploads/deliverable/file/50/CommONEnergy_Policy_factsheet_shoppingcentres2017.pdf

Press contact

Marine Faber
Senior Communications Manager
Email: marine.faber@bpie.eu
Phone: +32 2 789 30 07

Notes to the editor

About CommONEnergy

A research project funded by the European Union, its aim is to develop new strategies and solutions to retrofit existing shopping centres, in order to reduce consumptions, increase energy efficiency and comfort. The project involves 23 partners in Europe from industry, research and the retail sectors, including three shopping centres (in Italy, Spain and Norway) as demo cases to implement the innovative solutions and technologies developed; as well as a network of eight further commercial centres in 5 European countries used as real examples for the identification of inefficiencies, and for the virtual simulation of the systemic solutions developed.

<http://www.commonenergyproject.eu/>