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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the energy performance of buildings (recast) **(first reading)** - Adoption of the legislative act = Statements

Statement by Croatia

The Republic of Croatia remains committed to meeting the climate neutrality objectives without prejudice to the ambitions set out in the legislative proposal. We welcome the inclusion of provisions relating to the renovation of buildings damaged by natural disasters, which are of particular importance for the Republic of Croatia owing to the reconstruction following the 2020 earthquakes.

However, we still have strong reservations about the final text of the proposal and are not convinced that the proposal for a recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) will ensure that the ambitious targets set out are adequately met and we therefore abstain from adopting the act.

The Republic of Croatia considers that the EPBD recast should clearly state that the objective of the EPBD is to achieve a decarbonised national building stock with a view to achieving a zero-emission building (ZEB) stock by 2050, as it will not be possible to renovate all buildings to zero-emission building standards; for some buildings, achieving the ZEB standard is not technically possible or economically viable. Achieving the ZEB standard should be an indicative objective.

We would stress that we do not question the ambitions set out for the minimum energy performance standards for non-residential buildings. The EPBD recast contains provisions on the renovation of buildings damaged by natural disasters, which will make fulfilling its obligations under Article 9(1) more tolerable for the Republic of Croatia than it would be under a general approach. These provisions will also provide flexibility in the approach for MS affected by natural disasters in the future. Nevertheless, the Republic of Croatia still does not consider the overall system for promoting the energy renovation of non-residential buildings in Article 9(1) through MEPS to be adequately established and some elements of the final proposal are not workable or pragmatic.

The Republic of Croatia has systematically pushed for the introduction of an alternative approach to minimum energy performance standards for non-residential buildings (following the principles of the trajectory approach for residential buildings) which would allow for the renovation priorities to be adapted to national circumstances to a significant degree without reducing the ambition.

We would also point out that the definition of deep renovation in Article 2 is not clearly based on saving energy and that it enables favourable financing conditions for renovations that are not actually deep renovations.

The Republic of Croatia can support the provisions of Article 14 on sustainable mobility for new buildings, but considers that the provisions for existing buildings are too demanding and difficult to implement.

Statement by Hungary

Hungary supports the transition to climate neutrality and is committed to taking effective measures to that end that take into account economic and social feasibility, and ensure security of energy supply and the affordability of energy prices.

At the same time, we are concerned about the obligation to install solar energy in buildings, the ban on subsidies for natural gas boilers with a short deadline, and the targets for reducing energy consumption in residential buildings with short deadlines. We believe the provisions of the Directive will impose a disproportionate economic and social burden on Hungary, the objectives cannot be implemented cost-effectively, and that the deadlines set out cannot be met.

We would point out that the accelerated decarbonisation of the building stock by 2040 will require taking into due account the specificities and different starting positions of the Member States.

Due to the abovementioned concerns, Hungary cannot support the final compromise text.

Statement by Slovakia

The Slovak Republic by this statement declares its **abstention** from voting on the recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

The Slovak Republic acknowledges the importance of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive in the decarbonisation process of the building stock towards 2050 and the need to speed up the socially fair, cost-efficient renovations safeguarding the standard of living of the citizens.

However, the Slovak Republic considers the ambition of the trajectory setup in Article 9 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (recast) to be too high in terms of its pace and time, especially for the residential building stock, considering the dominant owner-occupied residential building stock. This ambition might have serious social consequences. Slovakia opposes unreasonable demands on the renovation coupled with the penalty scheme for the home-owners.

The Slovak Republic has serious concerns about a planned phase-out of fossil fuel boilers by 2040 in households, in a view of the need to safeguard the energy supply in heating for households.

The Slovak Republic strongly supports an equal approach to the deployment of all available renewable energy technologies in buildings.

Nevertheless, the Slovak Republic will make further strengthened efforts to mobilize the home-owner´s financial sources and their incentive to conduct energy renovation, while respecting the fundamental rights.