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Dear Minister Teresa Ribera,

We, as members of the European Alliance to Save Energy and of the Spanish Green Growth Group, **appeal to the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU to focus and give priority to the adoption of an ambitious Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) before the conclusion of its mandate at the end of 2023.**

Reaching a timely agreement is vital to prevent further politicisation of the file, provide predictability for businesses and local construction sectors, and avoid delays as we strive to save energy, achieve energy independence and accelerate Europe's efforts to combat climate change. The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive is a crucial component of the EU's Fit For 55 package and any delay or resistance to its adoption will substantially impact the EU's progress toward a zero-emission, climate-resilient future.

In recent years, the EU has struggled with a period of polycrisis, catalysed by the Ukraine conflict, resulting in surging energy prices and increased living costs, disproportionately affecting vulnerable citizens. More and more EU citizens are being exposed to energy poverty during winter and health risks during hot summers. This demands urgent action. Energy efficient buildings also alleviate the burden of energy bills on citizens and shield them from future energy crises. The EPBD prioritises the renovation of the worst-performing buildings, addressing energy poverty as a priority.

The European Green Deal recognises that upgrading the EU's building stock is a top priority for Europe in combating climate change and achieving our 2050 decarbonisation goals. Highly efficient and smart buildings are essential for energy security. Enhancing their energy efficiency through energy renovation reduces the energy required for heating, cooling, lighting and building management systems, optimises their consumption and contributes to grid optimisation. The integration of digital solutions further unlocks the potential of renewable energy integration and flexibility and can reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels.

As leaders in the European Union's industrial sector, we wholeheartedly endorse the ambitious vision for the EPBD put forth by the European Parliament. Strong regulations are crucial to ensure certainty for investors, allowing businesses to plan production, investment and supply chain strategies. The EPBD provides an investment roadmap, fostering job creation and the development of necessary skills for medium- and long-term competitiveness in this sector.

The European Union is home to some of the most successful businesses in the energy efficiency sector. Local construction sectors in Europe play a pivotal role in driving economic growth, developing infrastructure, and creating jobs. Their importance is closely tied to the overall health and vitality of the European economy.

We call upon the government of Spain to maintain the momentum of their efforts in EPBD negotiations and to unequivocally support the adoption of an ambitious regulation during its Presidency of the Council of the EU. This is a moment that calls for decisive political action, not hesitation. There is no time to waste.

Sincerely,



Monica Frassoni

President of the European Alliance to Save Energy



Gonzalo Sáenz de Miera

President of the Spanish Green Growth Group



ABOUT US

The [European Alliance to Save Energy \(EU-ASE\)](#) is a business-led, multistakeholder platform allowing leading multinational companies to join environmental campaigners to advance energy efficiency in the European Union. The Alliance's business members have operations across the EU27, employ over 340,000 people in Europe and have an aggregated annual turnover of 115 billion euros. Membership include Danfoss, Ecolab, Kingspan, Knauf Insulation, Owens Corning, Saint-Gobain, Schneider Electric, Siemens, Signify, Xylem, E3G, ECF and Kyoto Club.

The [Spanish Green Growth Group \(SGGG\)](#) is a non-profit business alliance constituted by more than fifty companies operating in Spain from different sectors and sizes (from large IBEX35 multinational companies to innovative SMEs), constituted as an association in 2016 to promote public-private partnerships to tackle together environmental challenges. The main goal of the association is to convey to society and the public administration the point of view of the business sector on the development of a green and sustainable economic model for Spain.