



EUROPEAN ALLIANCE TO  
**SAVE ENERGY**

*Creating an Energy-Efficient Europe*



**THE EUROPEAN ALLIANCE  
TO SAVE ENERGY INPUTS FOR  
ECONOMIC RECOVERY,  
RESILIENCE AND  
LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY**



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### **1. EARMARK AT LEAST 40% OF THE RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY'S TOTAL BUDGET TO FINANCE CLIMATE ACTION**

Guarantee that cost-effective investments address, over the next ten years and without further delays, the economic, health, environmental and social consequences of climate changes, especially on young and future generations.

### **2. USE EU TAXONOMY TO ASSESS THE ELIGIBILITY AND TRACKING OF RECOVERY INVESTMENTS**

The Rio Markers, the existing climate tracking system used for EU funds – are imperfect, can inflate climate action percentages and do not align with the definitions for green increasingly used in the private sector, whose money is required for co-investments. On the contrary, the EU Taxonomy for sustainable activities is science-based methodology and unequivocal tool defined by technical experts. Its practical application is already well documented through a line-by-line assessment of the 140 categories of investment types included in the Common Provision Regulation for Structural Funds.<sup>1</sup>

### **3. SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE ENERGY AND CLIMATE TARGETS FOR 2030 AND 2050**

Finance the implementation of the existing energy and climate regulatory and policy framework. This means prioritising investments in areas such as energy efficiency rather than lock-in resources in fossil fuel infrastructures that undermine the achievement of the Union's climate and environmental objectives.

### **4. REALISE THE FULL ENERGY EFFICIENCY POTENTIAL OF BUILDINGS**

Prioritise investments and reforms which aim to put highly energy efficient, renewable-based, smart and flexible buildings at the centre of a fast-changing decentralised energy system. Investing in energy efficiency in buildings means investing in green and digital European products and local value chains, strengthening the competitiveness of European manufacturers. A recent study shows that investing 1 million Euros in renovation activities result in the creation of 18 local, long-term jobs.<sup>2</sup>

### **5. INCREASE QUALITY OF INTERVENTIONS FOR LONG LASTING IMPACT**

Prioritise investments in cost-effective renovation programmes<sup>3</sup> that foster the quality, rate, and depth of comprehensive renovations encompassing envelopes, lighting, and technical buildings systems. Concretely, and to stay on track with the existing EPBD goal of decarbonising the EU building stock by 2050, financing should be aimed to reach a minimum of a 3% renovation rate per year combined with an average energy efficiency improvement of 75%.

### **6. PURSUE THE WIDER PUBLIC PURPOSE**

Supporting the construction and renovation of buildings for wider public purposes – such as healthcare provision, education, social housing, public research or urban regeneration – has a short term impact on growth and jobs and plays, in the medium term, an exemplary role to demonstrate to citizens the benefits of highly efficient and decarbonised buildings. Equally important, renovating buildings is key to alleviate energy poverty: around 40 million Europeans cannot keep their home adequately warm in the winter and 98 million cannot keep their home adequately cool in the summer.

## 7. PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND BUILD CAPACITY

Technical assistance is essential to remove the hurdles for local authorities, SMEs and corporate investments to implement energy efficiency projects and renovate the building stock. 10% of funds' allocations should be spent on technical assistance including support for public authorities to map their buildings stock out, prepare long term renovation strategies, develop and aggregate renovation proposals.

## 8. REMOVE FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS TO INVESTMENTS

Finance reforms at Member State, regional and local level to enable access to innovative financing schemes such as Energy Performance Contracts (EPCs). These reforms should enable the creation of tools to address the lack of technical knowledge, handling of technical risks and lack of experience in procurement. The reforms should also be aimed to support the uptake of the Eurostat Guidance Note on accounting rules for public authorities; their extension to the development of off-balance sheet treatment for energy efficiency investments realised by private sector companies; and the combination of EPCs and EU grants.

1. «[Applying the EU Taxonomy](#)»: [Lessons from the Front Line](#), Climate Strategy and Climate & Company, October 2020.

2. [Building Renovation: A kick-starter for the EU recovery](#), BPIE, 2020

3. [Special Report 11/2020: Energy efficiency in buildings: greater focus on cost-effectiveness still needed](#), EU Court of Auditors.



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The **European Alliance to Save Energy** (EU-ASE) creates a platform from which our companies (Danfoss, Kingspan, Knauf Insulation, Schneider Electric, Siemens and Signify) can join with politicians and thought leaders to ensure the voice of energy efficiency is heard from across the business and political community.

EU-ASE members have operations across the 27 Member States of the European Union, employ over 340.000 people in Europe and have an aggregated annual turnover of €115 billion.

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