

OPEN LETTER

19th June 2020

To: **Mr. Peter Altmaier**
German Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy
Mr. Horst Seehofer
German Federal Minister for Interior, Building and Community
Mrs. Svenja Schulze
German Federal Minister of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

CC: **Mr. Pedro Lourtie**
Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal
Ms. Tamara Weingerl-Pozar
Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovenia
Ms. Susanne Szech-Koundouros
Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany

Include Energy Renovation as a Priority of the German Council Presidency

The Renovate Europe Campaign (REC) is following with interest the development of the Programme for the upcoming German Council Presidency. The proposed priorities that we have heard of through public events and announcements, have raised concern among our 39 partner companies and associations. Among those partners we have 15 national partners, including, from Germany, DENEFF.

Our concern arises from the fact that there has been **absolutely no mention of energy renovation** of the building stock within the proposals we have heard about (including in the 18-month Programme of the Council¹), a very surprising omission considering the recent webinar that was organised by the German Permanent Representation in Brussels on the topic of the Renovation Wave. On this point, we urge you to ensure that the German Council Presidency supports and promotes the forthcoming *Renovation Wave Strategy* currently being prepared for publication in September by the European Commission as a crucial pillar of the forthcoming European economic recovery.

Our objective is to ask that before the Presidency starts on the 1st July, **energy renovation of our ageing and inefficient building stock is included as a priority** in the *Final Council Presidency Programme*, which we understand is still in the final stages of development.

We ask this as we know that:

1. The **most cost-effective and rapid** way to exit the economic crisis after the COVID-19 pandemic is to activate the energy renovation of our building stock². **Germany officially recognises the important role that building renovation can play** in the national context and has announced large budgets for this purpose in its recovery plan
2. The **European Commission has identified energy renovation** as a flagship of its proposed economic recovery package and will draw this link in its Renovation Wave Communication in September
3. The **job creation potential** of energy renovation stands at an average of 18 jobs per €1m invested³ – far more than in other sectors of the economy

¹ Published on the Council Website and dated 5th June 2020: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8086-2020-INIT/en/pdf>

² See the IEA Report on Sustainable Recovery released on the 18th June here: <https://www.iea.org/reports/sustainable-recovery/buildings#abstract>

³ See our publication highlighting recent research by the Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE) on the employment and other benefits of building renovation: <https://www.renovate-europe.eu/2020/06/10/building-renovation-a-kick-starter-for-the-eu-economy/>

4. Holistic, energy renovation **creates a healthy, resilient and comfortable built environment** in which well-being and productivity increases dramatically, whilst energy poverty drops. These factors bring even more stimulus to our economies
5. Not addressing the energy waste and GHG emissions from buildings is certain to mean that the **EU cannot achieve its long-term goal** of creating the world's first climate-neutral economy by 2050
6. The currently announced plans for the German Council Presidency recalls the intention to revise the **Leipzig Charter on Sustainable Cities**. Having a parallel priority on the renovation of buildings make full sense in this context

For all these reasons, we ask that the *energy renovation of the building stock in the EU* be noted as a priority of the German Presidency before the programme is finalised.

This call is supported by the **40 partners** of the Renovate Europe Campaign:



And by the following:

