



Council of the  
European Union

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TRANS 667  
TELECOM 425  
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## DRAFT MINUTES

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
(Transport, Telecommunications and **Energy**)

25 October 2022

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## 1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in 13560/22.

## 2. Approval of 'A' items

### Non-legislative list

13570/22

The Council adopted the "A" items listed in 13570/22 including COR and REV documents presented for adoption.

## Legislative deliberations

(Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

3. **Directive on common rules for the internal markets in renewable and natural gases and in hydrogen and Regulation on the internal markets for renewable and natural gases and for hydrogen (recast)**  
*Policy debate*



13236/22

15111/21 + ADD 1

15096/21 + ADD 1

The Council held a policy debate on the above topic on the basis of a discussion paper prepared by the Presidency.

4. **Revision of the Directive on the energy performance of buildings (recast)**  
*General approach*



13280/22 + COR 1

15088/21 + ADD 1

The Council reached a general approach on the above topic on the basis of the text submitted to the Council, as reflected in the outcome of proceedings (ST 14020/22). The Council also took note of the statement by Croatia and that by Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands as set out in the Annex.

## **Non-legislative activities**

5. Council Regulation on enhancing solidarity through better coordination of gas purchases, exchanges of gas across borders and reliable price benchmarks  
*Presentation by the Commission*  
*Exchange of views*
- C** 13781/22  
13690/22 + ADD 1

## **Any other business**

6. a) The unresolved safety and transparency issues in the development and operation of the Belarusian nuclear power plant  
*Information from the Lithuanian delegation*
- 13611/22
- b) Situation of the energy sector in Ukraine and Moldova  
*Information from the Commission*
- 13886/22

**Statements to the legislative "B" item set out in doc. 13560/22**

**Ad "B" item 4:**      **Revision of the Directive on the energy performance of buildings**  
(recast)  
*General approach*

## STATEMENT BY CROATIA

"Croatia considers it necessary to point out that the EPBD recast proposal should clearly reflect that the goal of the EPBD is to achieve decarbonized national buildings stocks with a view to achieving zero-emission building stocks by 2050, since each building cannot be renovated to reach the zero-emission buildings standard. Croatia reiterates that the provisions on MEPS for non-residential buildings in Article 9 do not encompass enough flexibility for Member States to determine their own priorities of renovation. Croatia does not bring into question the ambition of the MEPS for non-residential buildings in Article 9 but stresses that the proposed implementation method is inadequate for Croatian specific circumstances. After devastating earthquakes in 2020 Croatia is focused on comprehensive and deep renovations that include energy renovation of buildings, but also the structural renovation and improvement of seismic resistance of buildings. Comprehensive renovations are several times more expensive and more complex, but the resulting energy savings and emissions reductions are the same as if only the energy renovation was performed. For this reason, Croatia has repeatedly proposed the introduction of an alternative approach to MEPS for non-residential buildings (following the principles of the trajectory approach for residential buildings) which would allow for adapting of the renovation priorities to national circumstances without any lowering of the ambition.

Croatia also points out that the definition of deep renovation from Article 2 is not based on clear energy-saving foundation and it allows for unfair awarding of favourable financing conditions to renovations that in essence are not deep renovations.

Croatia does not oppose provisions of Article 12 on sustainable mobility for new buildings but believes that the provisions for existing buildings are too demanding and hardly implementable."

**STATEMENT BY BELGIUM, FRANCE, GERMANY, IRELAND, LUXEMBOURG, THE NETHERLANDS**

"An ambitious European energy performance of building policy is of paramount importance to deliver the commitments undertaken by all EU Member States under the European Green Deal. Today the Council adopted with a qualified majority and after numerous rounds of negotiations, a compromise position on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the energy performance of buildings (recast).

Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg and The Netherlands underline that the ambition of the minimum energy performance standards still needs to be substantially increased in the further steps to come. The decarbonisation of the building stock is indeed key in order to pave the way to reach our climate objectives. In this regard, we underline that the minimum energy performance standards need to be reinforced in order to be more effective and to align the directive with our common 2050 climate ambition.

In particular, for non-residential buildings, exemptions should be narrowed down, and exempted buildings should be addressed under the scope of the trajectory approach in Article 9 paragraph 2.

For residential buildings, it is important to strengthen the trajectory approach for the whole residential building stock towards a linear progress without linking it to the EPC to make sure that every Member State is on track to achieve the goals of the directive.

We call the co-legislator to follow this principle during the trilogue in the follow-up of the negotiations and we stand ready to pursue the negotiations with a view to improve the ambition of the directive."



First reading



Item based on a Commission proposal

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