



EuroWindoor feedback to the Call for Evidence on heat pumps - action plan to accelerate roll-out across the EU

EuroWindoor acknowledges that heat pumps are an important part of the energy transition in the building sector but they are not the solution for everything. Heat pumps are not an option for many existing buildings and the building sector needs a balanced approach between efficiency of building envelope and use of renewable energy. A specialized technology initiative for the heat pump is therefore not beneficial.

The cheapest energy is that unused and buildings should be seen as part of the energy system and not as isolated islands (in line with the 'Energy Efficiency First' principle). Good insulation of the opaque building envelope and the use of high-performance windows reduce energy consumption and related CO₂ emissions from buildings. In future industry and transport sector will significantly need more electricity from renewable sources in order to achieve decarbonization targets. Improving the building envelope will decrease energy demand and electrical power shortage. The remaining energy demand is low and can be provided efficiently over a long period of time with cheaper and less power-consuming heat pumps in a cost-optimal way.

Actually we see Germany as a negative example: the draft of the amendment of Gebäudeenergiegesetz (GEG, Building Energy Act) does more or less narrow the solution path for heating replacement to heat pumps. This is very poorly supported and rejected by about 80% of the citizens. The debate damages the heat transition and leads to defensive reactions and pull-forward effects in heating modernization. As a result, oil and gas heating systems are experiencing a renaissance in Germany.

In addition, this technology initiative for heat pumps superimposes the equally necessary renovation of the building envelope, whose central political element - MEPS - is still far from being adopted.

What is needed is an action plan remaining open to technology und focusing on a balanced approach that generates low energy demand and use of renewables in equal measures to make decarbonisation a success.

About EuroWindoor AISBL – EuroWindoor AISBL was founded as an international non-profit Association, in order to represent the interests of the European window, door and facade (curtain walling) sector. Our 20 national associations speak for European window, door and facade manufacturers that are in direct contact with consumers, and thereby having large insights on consumers' demands and expectations. We are at the forefront interacting with dealers, installers and consumers buying windows and doors, and the companies behind the associations cover selling all over Europe.

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EU Transparency Register ID Number: 29749561729-18