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:: Editorial

by Luc Werring, Principal Adviser to the EC DG Energy and Transport

I am delighted to introduce this new initiative, the EPBD Buildings Platform. The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive ([EPBD](#)) plays a major role in helping to achieve the 20% energy saving goal by 2020 proposed by the Commission in its Energy Efficiency [Green Paper](#) and recently endorsed by the EU Ministers and Heads of State at the Spring Council of 23-24 March 2006. The security of energy supply and the commitment to the Kyoto Protocol definitely constitute a major challenge for Europe. Energy consumption in Europe has been steadily increasing by about 1-2% a year while 40% of our total energy requirement is used in the built environment. The Directive could stimulate up to 45 million tonnes of carbon dioxide reduction by 2010.

The EPBD is already exerting a wide influence in many areas affecting all buildings related sectors, both domestic and non-domestic. Even though the Commission was already supporting the implementation of the Directive in a variety of ways, further commitment was demonstrated when it was decided to devote additional funding from the Intelligent Energy Programme.

In particular, the [EPBD Buildings Platform](#) has been established to facilitate communication and information flow amongst all stakeholders and to assist with the early evaluation of the impact of the Directive.

The EPBD Buildings Platform is being managed by INIVE EEIG on behalf of the Transport and Energy DG. Target groups for the Platform include all those who are actively involved with the built environment, including policy makers, energy agencies, architects, planners, developers, building services engineers, and the construction industry. It will work in close collaboration with other related activities, enhancing the communication between relevant EC funded projects in the frame of the Intelligent Energy-Europe programme, the EPBD Concerted Action, CEN standardisation work and the Energy Demand Management Committee, and so amplifying their effect.

In this way the European Commission will, through this Platform, provide another tool to help secure the successful implementation of the Directive in the European Member States, Romania and Bulgaria.

I am certain that you will find this newsletter an interesting and useful tool for keeping up-to-date with developments on the Buildings Directive front. I wish you good reading.

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> The Platform services

:: The EPBD Buildings Platform: an information resource for the implementation of the Directive



The service will be useful for practitioners and consultants, who have international interest, experts in energy agencies, interest groups and national policy makers in the 25 Member States and Bulgaria and Romania.

The information services will include:

- A dynamic **Website** (www.buildingsplatform.org) including a [Helpdesk](#);
- A monthly electronic **EPBD Newsletter** based on the latest information from the website and disseminated by e-mail;
- Concise **EPBD Information Papers** giving an overview of all major issues and **translated** into several languages.

More on the Helpdesk

The EPBD Buildings Platform has a dedicated Helpdesk that will address questions about implementing the Directive. There are three main parts:

- A series of FAQs that will be regularly updated and will aim to address most of the concerns that people have;
- A list of national Contacts and useful websites is being set up and will be available soon: if you have a question related to national implementation and not addressed by any of the FAQs, these Contacts or websites may be able to assist you;
- In the third section we will be compiling issues from the Directive that are left open to interpretation.

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> Associated activities

:: Intelligent Energy – Europe: SAVE actions supporting implementation and take-off of the EPBD

by G.Sutherland (IEEA)

The SAVE field of the IEE Programme is supporting the implementation of the EPBD via the development of

appropriate tools for EPBD take-off. There are ten ongoing projects directly supporting EPBD take-off, plus two looking at specific aspects of the EPBD associated with retrofitting of social housing. A further two actions look at the impact of the Directive at a community level. The actions assess certification, test and inspection methodologies, prepare the ground for public acceptance and develop educational and training tools.

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:: **Mandate to CEN for EPBD related standards**



by J.Hogeling (ISSO)

The European Commission decided after consultation with Member States experts, interest groups and CEN, that there was an urgent need for standards to support the EPBD. A mandate was given to CEN (Mandate 343) to develop a set of standards, based on a list of 31 topics covering calculation, measurement and inspection procedures, including methods on the level of building components and systems. The aim is to offer within a short period (2004-2006) a clear set of well-harmonised standards as the basis for national procedures in the Member States. In particular, Member States with very limited experience in the field of the EPBD could benefit from this in the short term. But it will also increase the accessibility, transparency and objectivity of energy performance assessments in the Member States in general.

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> **Supported events**

:: **Budapest conference (10-12 May 2006)**

The priority subject area of this conference are experiences regarding the implementation of new Building Regulations and Building Certification Systems in the Member States, as well as in the Candidate and other Central European countries.

A special session is dedicated to IEE projects: the ENPER-EXIST, EPA-NR and EP-Label projects will each present their first useful project results.

> [More information](#)

:: **Healthy Buildings 2006 (Lisbon, 6-8 June 2006)**



Problems with the quality of the indoor environment, and in particular with indoor air, are having an increasing impact on health, mainly on respiratory and skin illnesses, allergies and chronic diseases, including cancer. They also impact on psychological and behavioural patterns with significant affects on the well-being and productivity of building occupants.

HB 2006 aims primarily at establishing the state-of-the-art of these health-related topics in scientific and technical terms, mainly at the level of their causes and prevention by means of adequate technological intervention.

> [More information](#)

:: EPIC-AIVC 2006 conference (Lyon, 20-22 November 2006)



During this conference focusing on sustainability principles for the built environment, a dedicated session supported by the EPBD Buildings Platform will examine issues connected with implementation of the EPBD. Information will be provided about relevant projects within the IEE-programme and the activities of the Concerted Action, the mandate given by the EC to CEN for developing a whole range of standards.

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> Interviews

:: ManagEnergy Annual Conference: focus on the Green paper and presentation of the Buildings Platform



The ManagEnergy Annual Conference was held in Brussels 7/8 February 2006.

The central focus was the agenda set by the Green Paper on Energy Efficiency.

During the conference particular importance was given to new legislation supporting those targets.

Two important interviews took place during the event introducing the EPBD Buildings Platform:

- Paula Abreu-Marques (EC DG Energy and Transport) who is responsible for the promotion of the EPBD provided an outline of the Directive, its objectives and its potentially wide impact. She also highlighted the main services offered by the EPBD Buildings Platform, and the target audiences it aims to address;
- Peter Wouters (INIVE EEIG) described how the EPBD Buildings Platform will enhance communication amongst stakeholders and stimulate collaboration with other related activities.

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> Related websites

:: Related websites

The EPBD Buildings Platform will collaborate with other organisations, programmes and initiatives that are concerned with the Directive. The Platform will provide an information hub for EPBD related issues and as such will be proactive in seeking communication and synergy with each of the following:

- [Intelligent Energy - Europe \(IEE\)](#)
- [European Committee for standardisation](#)
- [ManagEnergy](#)
- [Sixth Framework Programme \(FP6\)](#)
- [Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign 2005-2008](#)
- [EPBD Concerted action](#)

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The EPBD Buildings Platform has been launched by the European Commission in the frame of the Intelligent Energy – Europe, 2003-2006 programme. It is managed by INIVE EEIG (www.inive.org), on behalf of DG TREN.

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