

European Parliament

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Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2020/0000(INI)

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

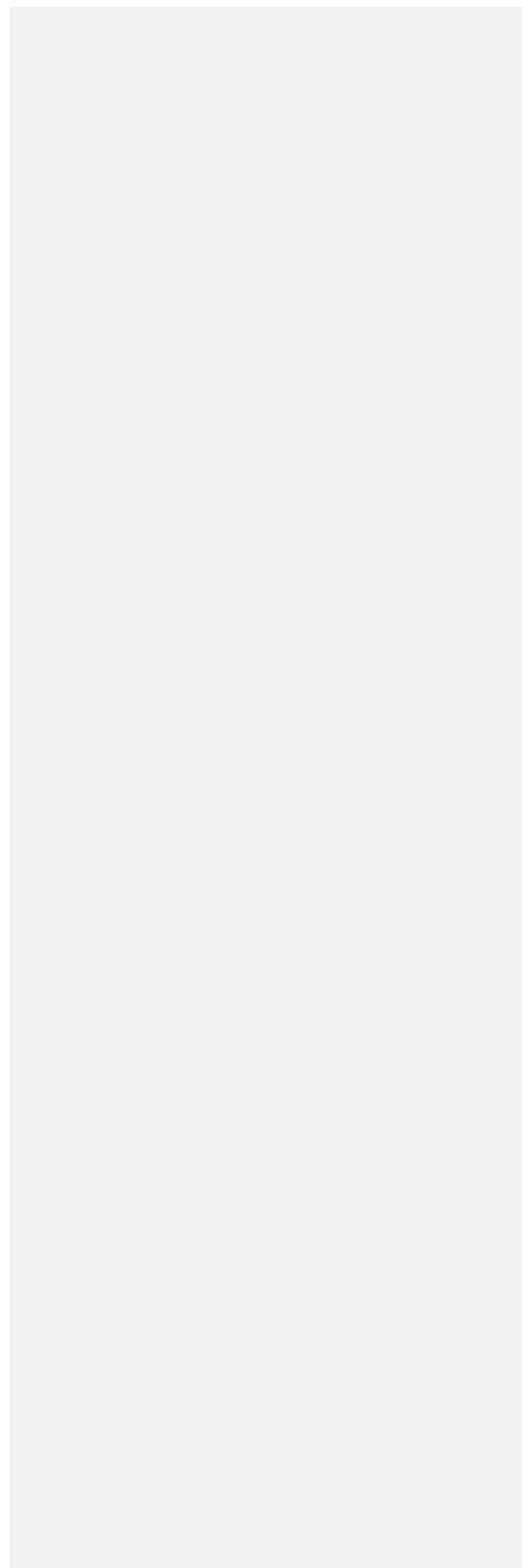
for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on maximising the energy efficiency potential of the EU's building stock

(2020/0000(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Maria Spyra

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the announcement of a renovation wave as part of the European Green Deal; urges the Commission to present it as planned, given that it is a key element of the post-COVID-19 recovery plan; calls on the Member States to step up large-scale renovation plans under the national energy and climate plans (NCEPs);
2. Welcomes the Commission's new Circular Economy Action Plan which highlights the role of construction and building materials in generating over 35 % of the EU's total waste; notes that a streamlined approach should be taken in EU legislation to recovery, recycling, life-cycle assessment and to taking the embodied energy in building materials into account;
3. Believes that a circular economy labelling system, based on environmental standards and criteria for materials linked to their potential for reintroduction into the value chain, should be established;
4. Stresses that there is no common EU legislation on the management of bulky waste in general, and of polystyrene and stone wool in particular; expresses its concern about the safe handling of insulation materials, given the possible inclusion of dangerous substances in them;
5. Notes that building renovation projects should contribute to the potential for better health conditions; emphasises that the revision of air quality standards and the definition of minimum indoor air and environment quality criteria can lead to improvements in indoor environmental conditions protecting against health risks, including the spread of viruses or other contaminants and help tackle energy poverty;
6. Emphasises the potential, in terms of overcoming the current fragmentation in the market, of creating a common energy and environmental building passport; stresses further that it should include the circular capacity of materials;
7. Stresses that homeowners, and housing associations and public building owners should be supported in climate-proofing their building stock, for example through grants or financial instruments that finance also independent technical assistance and are linked with in-use performance improvements and monitored, based on the additionality of multiannual financial framework (MFF) funding, national budgets and private sector sources;
8. Underlines the role of the European Investment Bank Group in providing loans, guarantees and financial instruments in order to finance small-scale and social housing renovation initiatives and services.

Commented [REHVA1]: REHVA appreciates the suggestion by ENVI on healthy buildings with good indoor air quality. We would like to point out though that there are indoor air quality standards and guidelines, but they are not binding, therefore not a common practice in many EU countries.

REHVA has been advocating the European Parliament to support the definition of binding minimum IAQ requirements and such indicators being displayed in EPCs to inform and protect citizens. The EP should give a strong mandate to the EC to step forward in this aspect. The recent COVID-19 crisis points out the importance of binding IAQ requirements that would contribute to reducing the COVID-19 type of virus spread in buildings by avoiding superspreading events in poorly ventilated and crowded spaces.

Therefore, REHVA would like to propose the inserted text changes in this regard.

Some important indoor air and environmental quality guidelines that can be referenced and used for the definition of binding criteria are listed below:

1. [WHO air quality guidelines for Europe](#)
2. [EN/ISO EN 16798-1 standard](#): Indoor environmental input parameters for design and assessment of energy performance of buildings addressing indoor air quality, thermal environment, lighting and acoustics
3. [JRC report on Promoting healthy and highly energy performing buildings in the European Union](#)
4. [Health based ventilation guidelines](#) (HealthVent project)
5. [Other REHVA resources](#)

Commented [REHVA2]: This is indeed a very important point. In addition, we would like to stress the importance of independent, high quality, one-stop-shop type of technical assistance for the housing sector and public building owners, including municipalities in order to ensure that they get high quality renovation delivering real, in-use energy performance improvements. Technical assistance and technical monitoring as a means of quality assurance should be an eligible and mandatory part of any public and private financial instrument. No funding should be given for energy renovation projects that cannot guarantee quality and deliver in-use performance improvements that are monitored during after the renovation.