

## Beyond the EU Climate Plan: Heating Industry Announces 7-part Roadmap to Carbon-Neutral Buildings

Brussels, 17 September 2020

The European Heating Industry (EHI) welcomes the European Commission's Climate Plan released yesterday, 16 September 2020. We encourage the European legislature to act quickly to bring these grand plans to fruition with decisive policy measures. In particular, the commitment to green economic recovery; to ensure that the COVID-19 crisis does not undermine our climate action progress to date. Decarbonising buildings remains one of the EU's biggest challenges, which is why we are taking this opportunity to publish our seven-point roadmap to climate neutrality for buildings.

In her State of the Union speech, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen yesterday called for the EU's emissions reduction target to be increased to 55% by 2030, up from the 40% previous target. The European Climate Plan sets out the EU's strategic priorities to get there—with particular emphasis on the persistent challenge of decarbonising our buildings. This ambition must be swiftly followed up with decisive policy action that will necessarily involve all actors in the supply chain. It will be a complex challenge, which is why the heating industry is contributing this roadmap, to help accelerate our decarbonisation journey to 2030-2050.



Figure 1: European Heating Industry Roadmap to Carbon-Neutral Buildings

We are delighted to see that the European Commission has been unequivocal on the importance of a just and fair transition, paying special attention to lower-income households that bear a higher burden of heating expenses compared to wealthier households. Before the Covid-19 crisis hit, some 50 million people were living in energy poverty. While EHI supports putting a price on carbon emissions for

buildings, we firmly believe it essential to combine this with robust policies and financial support for replacing and modernising the old and inefficient heating installations in Europe's buildings. If we do not, people will just have to bear higher energy prices.

EHI members have long been convinced of the dual benefit of speeding up the modernisation of our heating systems for buildings. Investing in and incentivising modernisation will have a significant, positive impact: creating jobs that are local by nature, while accelerating the transition to carbon-neutral buildings and improving comfort in our homes in one fell swoop.

Klaus Jesse, Chairman of EHI said: "While the heating industry has been working tirelessly in recent decades to develop innovative low- and no-carbon heating technologies, the sad reality is that an estimated 66 million heating appliances—out of a total 103 million installed across Europe—are old and inefficient."

"With a very low building renovation rate in Europe and heating appliance replacement rate below 4% per year, if we are to hope to achieve 55% emissions reduction by 2030, and our end goal of carbon-neutral buildings by 2050, we need decisive action now." Klaus continued.

Federica Sabbati, Secretary General of EHI commented: "Decarbonising heating systems is the most significant challenge the EU faces in meeting its climate neutrality target for buildings by 2050. There are many heating solutions to fit the needs of the very diverse European buildings and local conditions: there is no one-size-fits-all in heating. The heating industry has developed a seven-point roadmap to establish a robust policy framework that shifts every building in Europe to carbon-neutrality, that we are publishing today."

"Our industry believes that these seven policy areas form a roadmap that will contribute to the climate neutrality of buildings." Federica continues, "At the same time, these measures will stimulate the economy, and help make every European home the best possible place to live."

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