

Efficient and renewable-based heating is crucial to reduce energy bills for people

Statement on how modern heating lowers energy costs

Brussels, 20 October 2021

Ahead of the October meeting, the European Heating Industry would like to highlight to the Heads of State and Government of European Member States that increasing the share of modern, efficient and renewable-based heating in buildings is essential to cut energy bills and to make the 'fit for 55' package a success.

Heating is an essential human need. As winter comes and people around Europe turn on the heating, it is crucial that they get access to the energy they need to warm their places and have hot water running from their taps. In this sense, we welcome that the European Commission has put forward a toolbox of measures, which will help Member States make their choices to render energy bills manageable for people, immediately and in the medium term.

On the one hand, short term measures are fundamental to alleviate the problems that such energy price increases are already having across Europe, especially for those who are or may fall into energy poverty or are considered vulnerable households. On the other, longer term measures will build resilience into the energy system, allowing the end-use sectors – and buildings in particular – to fully contribute to the decarbonisation of the economy at the lowest possible cost.

In this sense, we would like to stress that renovated homes that are energy and resource efficient will reduce energy bills while also improving our health, comfort and wellbeing. To fully reap the benefits of the renovation wave we must act urgently on heating systems, as they represent four fifths of the energy consumption of buildings in Europe. Today, over 100 million heating systems bring comfort to the houses and shops of Europeans. However, the vast majority of them are so inefficient that they would not be allowed on the market today! This means that most people energy consumption and bills are higher than they should.

This needs to change here and now. Initiatives like scrappage schemes for old and inefficient heating systems can massively cut energy consumption from households and drastically reduce their CO₂ footprint.

Only a legislative framework that really helps efficient and renewable-based heating find their way in the homes of Europeans will be really 'fit for 55'. The abundance of new and innovative heating technologies and solutions that our industry manufacturers here in Europe will bring the benefits of energy efficiency and comfort to every building in Europe, adapting cost-effectively to local circumstances and diverse energy systems. We stand ready to provide all needed support to Member States and to all the European institutions, in the coming weeks and months.

The European heating industry directly provides 125,000 jobs, with an annual turnover of 28.5 billion euros. Counting its supply chain of wholesalers and installers, the whole heating sector represents 1.8 million local jobs in Europe.