



Brussels, 30 October 2009

RE: Recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)

Dear Minister,
Dear Energy Attaché,
Dear MEP,

At a moment when political leadership on climate change has never been more important, we are writing to you as representatives of Europe's environmental NGOs to urge that you maximize the EU's domestic efforts and **secure, in its final stages, a strong revision to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)**. For the EU to reach its climate targets, reducing emissions from buildings is absolutely essential.

Rushing through a bad agreement on the EPBD, with the excuse of having it ready to take to Copenhagen in December, will further damage EU credibility in the international negotiations for a post-2012 global climate agreement. On the other hand, adopting a bold and ambitious recast in line with the European Parliament's pace-setting first reading would be an opportunity to demonstrate that we are committing **to real, concrete and ambitious actions at home**, in a sector which accounts for 40% of EU final energy use and 36% of greenhouse gas emissions.

We cannot afford to ignore energy wastage, particularly in existing buildings; nor can we afford to waste opportunities to improve EU legislation. As the recast negotiations enter their final stages, we call upon you to take the right decisions to allow better and faster renovation of our homes, offices, schools and of all the buildings we use on a daily basis. The yardsticks against which we will be measuring any agreement are whether it includes:

- An obligation for MS to fix ambitious targets for the **renovation of part of their existing building stock according to net zero energy standards** by 2020, with intermediate targets in 2015 - as well as ensuring that all new buildings are net zero energy by 2015.
- Minimum energy performance requirements for **windows, exterior doors, roofs, walls and insulation systems** – to ensure that each small renovation is an opportunity to stop wasting energy.

- The obligation for Member States to **amend their building codes by 2015** so that investments in construction and renovation will yield **the greatest overall benefits to society** – in economic, social and environmental terms.
- The use of **national and community funds and of appropriate financing mechanisms** to help EU citizens with the refurbishments of their homes, and to help develop the required workforce to deliver this.

Europe's buildings currently waste a large proportion of the energy that goes into them. This is energy which warms the climate instead of our homes, wastes money in the family budget, and increases our dependence on foreign energy supply for absolutely no benefit to Europe or its citizens. **A weak EPBD will not solve this problem - but a strong one could help save more than 80 Mtoe¹ per year, and set a very good example of domestic European action on climate change.** Now more than ever it is time to lead and we urge you to show the right way forward.

Yours faithfully,

John Hontelez	Matthias Duwe	Tony Long
Secretary General EEB	Director CAN-Europe	Director WWF European Policy Office



¹ Million Tonnes of Oil Equivalent