

RenovateBelgium2014 Dinner—10th December

The **Renovate Belgium 2014 dinner** was held on the 10th of December in Brussels in presence of **many representatives** from local authorities, NGOs, professional federations and product manufacturers.



Vincent Detemmerman (Belgian Building Federation), **Oliver Rapf** (Executive Director of BPIE), **Antonio Paparella** (European Commission, DG ENTR) and **Adrian Joyce** (Campaign Director Renovate Europe) gave keynote speeches on the current situation of the **Belgian construction sector**, on **incentive schemes for renovation**, fuel poverty as well as on European efforts to support Member States in the **development of energy renovation programs** throughout Europe.



These presentations were followed by **fruitful discussions** on the obstacles which are encountered when **promoting energy renovations in Belgium**, but also on the often ignored side-benefits of this type of retrofit, including **improved public health and benefits for local employment**.

The issue of financing was quickly defined as a **key element**, while guest speakers demonstrated that upfront financing should only be seen as a temporary, “bridging” issue, with energy savings allowing to provide budgets for further renovation projects.

Discussions also revolved around the **need for trust in techniques, in companies, in products, in banks**, and on the notion of “**one-stop shops**” which can make a real difference to people deterred by the complexity of renovating their dwelling.

The Renovate Belgium Initiative wishes you a wonderful End of Year and looks forwards to welcoming you to further events in 2015!