

JOINT PRESS RELEASE
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Energy Renovation contributes positively to Urban Regeneration

The URBAN Intergroup and Renovate Europe organized a joint event on the topic Funding for Energy Renovation as a Stimulus for Urban Regeneration on Tuesday 26th September. The event was held in the context of the ongoing negotiations on the review of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, due to be voted in the EP early October, and sought to draw a link with available funding and opportunities to help Member States implement buildings-related legislation, through the Juncker Fund, the EIB and the current and possibly the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework, but also raising awareness about successful local initiatives.

*“Energy renovation projects in urban areas is like **inviting a whole city to go on an Easter egg hunt**, to uncover the hidden treasures and multiple benefits that can be unlocked”, said Claire Roumet, Executive Director of Energy Cities. “Energy renovation can completely **change the metabolism of a city** - the positive impacts can be so significant that it can lead to a **complete urban transformation**, at all levels.”*

MEP Jan Olbrycht, President of the Urban Intergroup, acknowledged the **key role of energy renovation as an opportunity to roll-out a comprehensive urban strategy** with the aim of **tackling energy poverty, boosting social cohesion and triggering local jobs**. But MEP Olbrycht was also keen to emphasise the need that urban regeneration be an inclusive process which preserves the patrimonial heritage and improves the quality of living for all residents involved.

*“Energy renovation can and must serve as **entry point to engage the local community** to interact on a common discussion that goes wider than just buildings and housing, to improve quality of life for all”, agreed Claire Roumet.*

The **redistributional value of targeted renovations** is well-known, delivering undeniable benefits to lower income groups through lower energy bills and improved living standards. But this urban regeneration also occurs in skyscraper-filled business quarters needing a much-needed human touch, or high density residential areas thirsty for more green spaces or community facilities.

*“Energy renovation targets not only deprived areas”, said Adrian Joyce, “Energy renovation can be the first step to boosting **social cohesion, civic pride and to improve the quality of life for all different types of neighborhoods**”.*

In terms of financing for urban energy renovation projects, speakers agreed that **investment criteria need to go beyond simple profitability and short payback** to include also the less tangible indicators such as improved quality of life and social benefits.

Miguel Casas from CITYinvest, emphasized the **key leadership role of public partners** in this respect, in order to increase the ambition and investment possibilities in energy renovation projects.

Despite the systemic challenges inherent to the energy renovation market, signals are nevertheless emerging which indicate a **growing appetite for energy renovation projects** on the ground. Encouraging figures from the **European Investment Bank** show a three-fold increase since 2012 in Energy Efficiency lending, with 75% of these funds being delivered to buildings. And minimum

allocation requirements for low-carbon introduced for the **EU cohesion policy** funding in the 2014-2020 **Multi-Annual Financial Framework** have so far yielded a tripling of allocations for energy efficiency compared to the previous period, with overall allocations well beyond the minimum legal requirement, contributing among other things to an expected 875,000 renovated dwellings.

*“The **bottom-up push** from empowered and motivated cities and regions, convinced about the **multiple benefits that energy renovation can deliver to urban areas**, is an important factor that can drive the energy renovation market”, explained Lambert Van Nistelrooij, Vice-President of the URBAN Intergroup. “The role of cities and local authorities is increasingly gaining prominence, as they are the ones who **witness first-hand the positive domino-effect from energy renovation projects.**”*

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Relevant documents:

For more information about the event and to download the PPT presentations: [Funding for Energy Renovation as a Stimulus for Urban Regeneration](#)

Download the Renovate Europe Briefing: [Energy Renovations Benefit Communities, not Speculators](#)

About Renovate Europe

Renovate Europe is a political communications campaign with the ambition to reduce the energy demand of the building stock in the EU by 80% by 2050 compared to 2005 levels through legislation and ambitious renovation programmes. This will bring the energy performance of the entire building stock in the EU to a Nearly Zero Energy (NZEB) performance level. Renovate Europe brings together **36 partners** from across the building value chain (trade associations, companies, trade unions, city networks and 14 national partners). Learn more: www.renovate-europe.eu @RenovateEurope

About the URBANintergroup

The URBAN Intergroup at the European Parliament is a cross-parties and cross-committees grouping with a horizontal approach to discuss urban related issues. We bring together over **89 MEPs** representing most EU Member States, all the political groups at the European Parliament, and working in all the parliamentary committees. We work with **118 partners** from local, regional, national and European level that represent the interests of Europe’s town and cities or work in the domain relevant for urban development.

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