

FIEC Briefing Note – Construction related aspects under Directive 2009/28/EC of 23rd April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources.

General Introduction:

The ongoing recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive should be read in conjunction with the Directive on Renewable Energy which has already been adopted. The Directive is mostly concerned with setting legally binding targets for Member States for the amount of final energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020 based on the reference year 2005. Targets are differentiated by Member State but taken together will enable the EU to reach the target of a 20% share of renewables in final energy consumption by 2020. In order to give a degree of flexibility to Member States, in meeting their targets, statistical transfers are allowed between Member States as well as joint projects. These projects can also involve third countries.

This Directive also relates to a Decision (*Decision 406/2009/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the effort of the Member States to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to meet the Community's greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments up to 2020*) committing Member States to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in order to reach a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and by 30% in case of an international agreement. Here Member States' limits are also differentiated.

Some parts of the directive's provisions are linked to construction and buildings more specifically. These are listed below.

Planning for renewables applications (Article 13.1)

Member States to ensure that administrative charges linked to the construction of renewable applications paid by, among others, builders are "transparent" and "cost related".

Building Codes (Article 13.4 to 13.6):

- ✓ By 31st December 2014, Member States are required to set, "where appropriate", minimum levels of energy from renewable sources (including through district heating) in new buildings and existing buildings undergoing major renovation.
- ✓ Member States to ensure that new public buildings play an exemplary role after 1st January 2012. This will also apply to existing public buildings undergoing major renovation. Meeting this requirement can also come through the use of the roof of a public building for the purposes of generating energy from renewable sources.
- ✓ Member States to "promote" use of renewable heating and cooling systems as well as systems that lead to a "significant" reduction in energy consumption through the building codes.
- ✓ Member States to encourage biomass conversion technologies with at least 85% for commercial and residential applications and 70% for industrial applications.
- ✓ Member States to promote use of heat pumps that meet the minimum requirements set down in the 2007 Commission Decision on the awarding of the eco-label.

Training (Article 14):

The Directive instructs Member States to make available information on support measures to “actors” including builders, installers and architects:

Information on the net benefit, cost and energy efficiency on renewable energy sources for heating, cooling and electricity generation should be made available by the supplier of the equipment or by the competent national authorities.

Member States to ensure that certification or qualification schemes are available by 31st December 2012 for the following categories of installer:

- ✓ Small scale biomass boilers and stoves
- ✓ Solar photovoltaic
- ✓ Solar thermal systems
- ✓ Shallow geo-thermal systems
- ✓ Heat Pumps

These schemes “may” take into account existing schemes and shall be based on Annex IV. Each Member State to recognize qualifications of installer awarded by another Member State in accordance with the criteria laid down in the annex.