

To: Member of the European Parliament **Bendt Bendtsen**

CC: Members of the European Parliament involved in EPBD triologue negotiations

Brussels, Belgium: November 6, 2017

RE: UPCOMING TRIALOGUE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS DIRECTIVE (EPBD) – CALL FOR AN ADEQUATE AMBITION TO BOOST ENERGY EFFICIENCY, HEALTH, WELLBEING AND TACKLE SOCIAL INEQUALITY

Dear Member of the European Parliament Bendt Bendtsen,

This November, you will be entering the triologue negotiations with the Council and the European Commission on the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD).

We, the undersigned organisations, representing civil society and health organisations, as well as companies and businesses, call on you to make sure the revised EPBD is ambitious in setting Europe on track for healthy and sustainable buildings, while at the same time reducing Europe's buildings' carbon footprint.

An ambitious revised EPBD has a huge potential to not only decrease CO2 emissions from the buildings sector, but also to achieve significant social and health benefits, particularly for vulnerable populations such as those living with illness or in energy poverty. These benefits can only be achieved if the framework is set right, and buildings are considered from a holistic perspective.

We congratulate you on the adoption of an ambitious report in the ITRE committee, and we look to you to uphold its contents throughout the upcoming negotiations. In particular, we urge you to maintain specific provisions for the national renovation strategies; binding measures instead of voluntary actions; and the need to maintain a healthy indoor environment.

Europeans spend 90% of their lives indoors. Yet, there is little awareness among the public and policy-makers that the quality of our buildings affects our health and what can be done about it. Studies demonstrate that poor indoor air quality can cause, or exacerbate the effects of, allergies and asthma. Improving buildings' energy performance can and must also promote a healthy indoor environment. This will reduce or avoid the healthcare costs associated with poor living conditions (cutting down on the €82 billion annually that EU member states spend on healthcare for lung disease and asthma).

Nearly 84 million Europeans live in cold, damp and potentially mould-affected dwellings, increasing their risk of having respiratory illness and lifetime allergies by 40%. Between 50 million and 125 million people – as many as 1 in 4 - are at risk of energy poverty in Europe. These are often households that live in poor quality buildings, whose living environment can be made worse by being unable to afford the high cost of adequate energy services.

The EPBD revision and the Clean Energy Package overall represent a key opportunity for EU policy-makers to show that they care about the health and wellbeing of all Europeans. In addition, a Package that aims high is needed to uphold the EU's international leadership on the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In order to meet Europe's climate and energy goals, the rate of building renovation needs to substantially increase. At the same time, it is equally important that no citizen is left behind in the transition. The revision of the EPBD is an important first step to ensure a healthier and more equitable energy transition for all Europeans by requiring healthier, efficient and sustainable buildings.

We, the undersigned organisations, representing civil society and health organisations, as well as companies and businesses, count on you and remain at your disposal for more details or future collaborations.

Respectfully,
The Undersigned Organizations and Companies

Coordinated and signed by:



Buildings 2030



Health and Environment Alliance

Signed by:



European Environmental Bureau



European Lung Foundation



European Ventilation Industry Association



E3G



Friends of the Earth Europe



International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety



International Society of Doctors for the Environment



International WELL Building Institute



Johnson Controls Inc.



Knauf Insulation



Philips Lighting



Rockwool



Federation of European Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Associations



Réseau wallon pour l'accès durable à l'énergie: Belgium



VELUX



WWF European Policy Office