

New EU regulations for the building sector in the context of the Energy 2020 strategy



DR. ROSA MARÍA FERNÁNDEZ
UNED & BRADFORD UNIVERSITIES
YORK UNIVERSITY VISITING SCHOLAR

Context



- Europe 2020 strategy [COM (2010) 2020 final]
 - “A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth”:
Flagship initiatives:
 - ✦ Innovation Union
 - ✦ Youth on the move
 - ✦ A digital agenda for Europe
 - ✦ Resource efficient Europe
 - ✦ An industrial policy for the globalisation era
 - ✦ An agenda for new skills and jobs
 - ✦ European platform against poverty

Context



- Energy 2020 strategy [COM (2010) 639 final]
 - “A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy”.
Priorities:
 - ✦ Achieving an energy efficient Europe
 - ✦ Building a truly pan-European integrated energy market
 - ✦ Empowering consumers and achieving the highest level of safety and security
 - ✦ Extending Europe’s leadership in energy technology and innovation
 - ✦ Strengthening the external dimension of the EU energy market

Background



- Energy and Climate Change package: “20/20/20 for 2020”:
 - Reduce GHG emissions by 20% (30% if there is international committment to do so)
 - Reduce energy consumption by 20%
 - Increase energy efficiency levels by 20%
 - ✦ This is the target that it is expected not to be achieved!!!

Changes coming from the Energy and Climate Change Package



- **Renewable sources of energy: 2009/28/CE**
 - New installations
 - Third countries
 - National targets for renewables: binding target for energy from renewable sources – 20% of total energy consumption by 2020
- **Modification of the ETS: 2009/29/CE**
- **Internal market for electricity: 2009/72/CE**
- **Internal market for gas: 2009/73/CE**
- **Minimum petroleum/crude oil stocks: 2009/119/CE**
- **Energy performance of buildings: 2010/31/EU**

Energy performance of buildings



- Previous Directive suffered lots of changes (2002/91/EC)
- Buildings account for 40% of total energy consumption (EU)
- Calculation of cost-optimal levels of minimum energy performance requirements at National level.
Parameters:
 - Climatic conditions
 - Practical accessibility of energy infrastructure
- Distinction: New / existing buildings

Energy performance of buildings (cont.)



- **Nearly zero-energy buildings:**
 - By 31 Dec. 2020 all new buildings are nearly zero-energy buildings
 - After 31 Dec. 2018, new buildings occupied and owned by public authorities are nearly zero-energy buildings
 - By 31 Dec. 2012: Commission report on the progress of Member States (and then every 3 years)
- **Energy performance certificates:**
 - By independent accredited professionals
 - Including recommendations for improvement
- **Inspection of heating & air-conditioning systems**

Application timeframe



- **Transposition: By 9 July 2012**
- **Application:**
 - 9 January 2013
 - 9 July 2013
 - 31 December 2015
- **Public authorities and public buildings should lead the way**

Voluntary approach



- **Greenbuilding Programme**
 - Initiated by European Commission in 2005
 - Goal: Improve energy performance of non-residential buildings
 - On a voluntary basis
 - Generally improvements try to reduce energy consumption by 25%
 - Participant countries: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden

Some conclusions



- Energy sector considered key to get out of the crisis
- Energy efficiency seems to be the goal most difficult to achieve
- Building is a sector where energy saving and energy efficiency measures are far from being fully implemented: Huge opportunities for improvement
- Timeframes approved are too long: Late for Kyoto targets (2012) & late for 2020 strategy?... Could be for the long term: 2050

Thanks for your attention

Questions & Comments are
welcome