

Press Release

Why the European Parliament got the EPBD right:

Decarbonising buildings quickly and cost-effectively (also) requires renewable gases and enabling heating technologies

Brussels, 15th of March – Yesterday, a major milestone for accelerating the decarbonisation of buildings has been reached by the European Parliament, who adopted its final position on the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD).

GD4S is pleased with the positive outcome and welcomes the European Parliament's approach, which creates a **solid framework for ensuring a progressive transition away from fossil fuel-based heating systems, while leaving no consumers without a reliable and affordable heating solution.**

Raúl Suárez, President of GD4S, commented: *"With this vote, Members of the European Parliament have acknowledged that all types of renewable energies, including renewable gases such as biomethane & hydrogen, are needed to accelerate the decarbonisation of the hard-to-abate building sector."*

As decarbonisation of heating cannot solely be achieved with electrification and district heating, MEPs opened the way for additional complementary solutions, **including hybrid heat pumps and boilers running on renewable gases. This will ensure that no citizen is left without a reliable and affordable heating option.**

Because these technologies are fully compatible and ready to switch to renewable gases, they have a clear role to play in **progressively phasing out fossil fuels and achieving the EU's climate objectives, a role that the European Parliament has acknowledged in today's vote.**

REPowerEU set an objective of 35 billion cubic meters of biomethane by 2030, **which represents over 40% of today's household gas consumption.** Keeping the possibility to install **hybrid heat pumps & boilers certified to run on renewable gases** is, therefore, a coherent approach that facilitates the penetration of renewable gases in buildings, where and when they are most beneficial. This approach is **best suited to achieve a rapid and cost-effective decarbonisation of the building sector.**

However, GD4S regrets that the unnecessary requirement for renewable energies to be delivered exclusively through power purchase agreements (PPAs) remains in the text, as such a restriction risks **jeopardising Europe's ability to meet its ambitious deadlines for zero-emission buildings.**

GD4S hopes that such issue will be tackled during the trilogues discussions between the European Parliament, the EU Council, and the European Commission

More about GD4S:

GD4S represents the leading natural gas distributors in France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania and Spain. Together, we represent 35 million customers in Europe (around 30% of the European market). Gas distributors are responsible for operating the gas distribution network, ensuring its maintenance and its development. We are responsible for safely distributing natural and renewable gas to consumers.

Transparency Register number: 382692732615

Contact: Morgane Goret-Le Guen, Senior EU Policy officer, morgane.goretleguen@gd4s.eu