

5.2 Consultation questions

ad (1) (c) How could these failures be best addressed? For example; how could behavioural change needed for quicker uptake of energy efficiency measures by society be triggered at the national level? How could the development of an energy services market for households be further stimulated? What could be done to increase awareness raising and promotion of energy efficiency in buildings? How could the business community (e.g. building sector, ESCOs, local banks, etc.) be better supported in delivering energy efficiency in buildings? How could the split incentive problem be best tackled?

My comment:

i) ad behavioural change Standards in building construction are raised, not only regarding energy efficiency, but lately, regarding safety and accessibility. All goals being very much justified in itself, they add up to a dramatic increase of building cost, where only few means remain for investment above the legal necessary. There should be a clear commitment from the EU, what goals are prior to others (eg. safety levels are extremely high already, accessibility might be better implemented with the person in need, than by generally making every apartment super-accessible). An incentive to invest into energy efficiency could be that other standards could be lowered. Also a more prudent implementation of new standards could help. Often new regulations could make others, older ones, obsolete. Yet, the latter are nearly never adapted. So builders have to fulfill them all.

ii) ad awareness more transparent placing of planning contracts could help to better control where the money goes. This should start with open public architectural competitions for as many building projects as possible. The results should be published in the internet, so that public can see, what are the energy efficiency strategies of the different planners, and how much they were considered by the jury.

With kind regards
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