

CONSULTATION PAPER
"FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDINGS"

Answers to the „Consultation questions 5.2“

1. Addressing market failures

- a. From our point of view most of the important facts are mentioned. Yet, we like to stress three more aspects:
 - i. It is to be categorized as problematic, that existing knowledge about energy supply and climate change often still appears to be ignored (since 1972 Club of Rome). The Legislative should demonstrate more consciousness in decisions they make and legal guidelines they provide.
 - ii. Decisions should be planned not only for one or two legislative periods but for the period of one to two generations, as climate is developing long-term.
 - iii. Another quite important point are the different languages, regulations and as a result of this a lack of knowledge. For example “TRION climate network” is trying to solve parts of these problems by networking and communicating about these differences across borders.
- b. We assume that the most important failures have been found and made out. However in our point of view it is necessary to arise more public awareness of actual energy costs, including all not obvious concerns such as environmental costs, waste etc. or, in other words, to arise awareness which costs we could save, if we act and invest now.
We would like to point out, that it might be conducive to stress the positive affects of investing in energy efficiency measures, according to the target group. Therefore the best level to address people might be local or regional by launching different campaigns and range of services (such as the different climate protection agencies in Germany are offering). But as it is a matter which is put into practice on different layers, it should be addressed to all mentioned levels.
- c. Compare 1.b. and 2.b.

2. Improving access to financing

- a. We propose to alter the regulations of EU-level financial tools from just project-related aid to increasingly support long-term structures which try to generate a self-financing structure. It might also be helpful to concentrate on connecting existing structures (on a local, regional, national and international level) instead of building up new ones. Making already established structures and tools known, simple to use and transparent would be promising.
- b. One simple and assumingly most effective possibility to gain more investment in energy efficiency measures could be to alter the tax system into a carbon dioxide emission based system.
We guess that creation of awareness is probably the most important topic in mobilising private financing. Also setting up integrative processes when seeking solution on a local scale could be useful.
- c.
- d. We guess creation of awareness, target group-related could be a key to improve a certain perception.
- e. Concerning the creation of awareness target group-related on a regional level, there are many good examples known in Germany:
www.trion-climate.net
www.energieagentur-regio-freiburg.de
www.klimaschutzagentur.de
etc.

3. Strengthening the regulatory framework

- a. It could be interesting thinking about setting at least zero energy building in advance for any new-buildings, even better would be making so-called “plus-energy houses” mandatory. Technically we are already at a level, where these kinds of buildings are not necessarily much more expensive than the present standard.
Another idea is to set up a Europewide label about zero energy buildings, such as the “Passivhaus” or “Minergie” or BBC in France.

To ensure that these regulations are put into practice and that these buildings can be afforded by “everyone”, it could be helpful to create a different tax system with less tax to be paid when building a zero energy building.
- b. As this could be a general regulation with little tolerance, there is no need for specific measures.
- c. We guess that the most important need is to put the awareness of climate change and necessity of reducing energy consumption on the very top of the agenda of all parties.