

Good afternoon,

Please find here my contribution to the public consultation on "FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDINGS".

It is mainly focused on the development of renewable energy in buildings but could also be easily to other energy efficiency improvements.

Some renewable energy (such as geothermal or solar thermal energy) asks for a high up-front investment followed by low operating costs. This non-technical barrier to high market penetration can be balanced by new financial schemes held by big energy companies: the company pays for the source equipment (solar thermal panel fields, vertical geothermal boreholes ...), owns it and sells at a convenient price the produced energy to consumer (for example individuals living in flats in urban areas). With this mechanism the important capital investment which is mainly unacceptable for individuals is done by big companies.

The current main constraint for developing such financial mechanism is related to the incentives and risk mitigation schemes put in place by national or local level. They are often dedicated to the building owners and cannot be offered to such energy companies. It finally slows down the rate of development of some renewable energy in Europe.

This new type of financial mechanisms which supports the objectives of the 20x20x20 Energy strategy and related directives should be allowed by European / National / Regional regulations.

A similar scheme could be put in place for other energy efficiency investments, even if the measure of the amount of saved energy and the evaluation of the amount of money due by owners to energy companies would be a little bit more complicated (the spared energy cannot be measured directly, whereas the produced renewable energy can; it has to be assessed). The incentive and other financial schemes should thus be available to such energy companies in addition to the building owners. The EU should promote this type of schemes at every level.

Best regards,

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