Buildings represent 40% of the EU’s energy demand, up to 80% of this is heating. Only 18% of the EU heating demand is covered by renewables. There is an important need to increase the share of renewables – particularly for heating – in the building sector.

The 2009 RED has put in place a measure for Member States to set – where appropriate – minimum levels of renewable energy for new/renovated buildings, to complement measures on the energy performance of buildings set in EPBD.

This complementarity is crucial and evident looking at the definition of NZEBs (nearly zero-energy buildings, see back page).

To achieve full decarbonization by 2050, we must avoid locking in fossil fuels in new or renovated buildings.

As heating technologies installed today will last for decades, new or renovated buildings must be equipped today with 2050-ready appliances, such as renewable heating technologies.

Specific provisions for the deployment of RES in buildings are needed in the RED to meet the decarbonization target, avoid energy poverty, promote synergies between energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The proposed Recast of the RED strengthens this provision in art. 15.5 by removing the loophole ‘where appropriate’.

However, in the current debate, reservations on this measure were expressed. Suppressing or reducing article 15.5 from the RED recast does not guarantee that the EPBD will still ensure an increased penetration of renewables in buildings.

Art. 15.5 must be kept in the RED as it is complementary, not overlapping with EPBD measures;

The ‘where appropriate’ loophole must be removed;

The eligibility to art.15.5 should be limited to renewable sources or carriers using mainly renewables.

Find our concrete proposal in the second page of this document.

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Why is article 15.5 of the Renewable Energy Directive important?

**RED**
Art. 15.5 sets minimum levels of renewables for new/renovated buildings. It obliges Member States to concretely define the precise level of residual energy demand which must be covered by renewables.

**EPBD**
It defines NZEB as buildings with a very high energy efficiency (determined in the EPBD annexes), while the very low amount of remaining energy required should be covered to a ‘very significant extent’ by renewable sources. The ‘significant amount’ of renewables is NOT defined!

This combined approach avoids locking-in inefficient, fossil based solutions incompatible with long-term decarbonisation scenarios.

It avoids the paradox of a new building with high insulation, and an inefficient oil boiler as heating system, or the paradox of a poorly insulated building with oversized renewable supply.

Without article 15.5, Members States risk locking-in inefficient, fossil based solutions incompatible with long-term decarbonisation scenarios.

**our suggestion**

The text of art 15.5 should be adapted as follows:

[...]. Member States shall, in their building regulations and codes or by other means with equivalent effect, require, where appropriate, the use of minimum levels of energy from renewable sources in new buildings and in existing buildings that are subject to major renovation, reflecting the results of the cost-optimal calculation carried out pursuant to Article 5(2) of Directive 2010/31/EU. Member States shall permit those minimum levels to be fulfilled, inter alia, through district heating and cooling produced using a significant proportion of renewable energy sources, through individual or collective self-consumption of renewable energy, as defined by article 21, or through renewable based cogeneration and unavoidable waste heat and cold, except from non-RES power generation.