

All agree that a huge potential for 'easy' energy saving lies in housing but that does not mean it will happen. What will it take to trigger a sustainable, people-centred energy transition in the European residential sector? Managers of 22 million housing units speak up..

Buildings are responsible for more than 40% of all CO₂ emissions in the EU, while the residential sector is the main contributor, accounting for approximately 77% of these emissions. The European Commission has estimated the **potential for savings in household energy saving at 25% by 2020.**

The European Social Housing sector, composed of over 22,000 municipal, voluntary and cooperative non-for-profit housing organisations, provides over **22 million dwellings** in the EU. Due to its long-term commitment to residents, cutting energy costs through energy efficiency and increasing comfort plays a central role in the strategy of the Social Housing sector. This conference will present the state-of-the-art in sustainable construction and refurbishment in the sector. Now more than ever, with a **hike in household electricity price** of 14% between January 2005 and January 2007, energy efficiency remains at the centre of asset management strategies of Social Housing organisations.

Because of its size, the sector has the **potential to trigger** the widespread deployment of new technologies as well as energy efficient and commercially viable construction and refurbishment practices in the wider residential sector. However, **integrated measures are needed** to achieve this potential including optimal tax rates for energy saving refurbishment, availability of finance, appropriate legislative, regulatory and financial instruments and the development of renewable energy technology market.

Speaking ahead of the EU Renewable Energy Week's events CECODHAS President, Paul Louis Marty announced that *"This conference will illustrate that with its expertise, practical experience and potential, the sector is a **key partner** for regional authorities, Member State governments and EU institutions in achieving energy efficiency objectives in the residential sector."* Mr Marty also insisted that *"a sustainable EU energy policy must have citizens concerns at its core, in terms of halting climate change but also in terms of affordability. **Fuel poverty is currently a growing concern in Europe, and its impact is being felt strongly within the social housing sector.** The EU internal energy market package, currently being reviewed by the European Parliament, must contain legally binding measures to protect citizens against this worrying trend."*

Speakers at the conference will include:

Claude Turmes, MEP, Vice-Chairman, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
Robert Goebbles, MEP, Vice-President responsible for energy policy, Socialist Group

Full programme overleaf

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**Wednesday 30 January 2008 from 09.00 to 13.00 at the Committee of the Regions
(Room 51), Brussels**

Housing and the European Energy Transition

The conference will focus on 3 issues: 1) **Cutting energy consumption and increasing the use of renewable energy:** State-of-the-art case studies of successful large-scale projects in the social housing sector. 2) **Tackling Obstacles:** Regulatory, financial and technical measures needed to pave the way towards optimising sustainable energy management and replicating successful projects in the entire social housing stock. 3) **Ensuring sustainability through transparency, affordability and empowerment of citizens in a liberalised energy market:** Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), representatives of the Social Housing sector, European Trade Unions and employers give their views.

From 9:00 to 09.45

Social Housing Organisations leading a sustainable, people-centred energy transition in the residential sector

Speaker: Paul Louis Marty, President of CECODHAS

The role of cities in reaching energy saving targets in the social housing sector

Speaker: Representative of a major European city (Vienna)

From 09:45 to 10.45

Case study > Large scale, state-of-the-art refurbishment project of social housing with special emphasis on successful resident involvement. (OPAC 38, France – SHE project)

Case study > Facing the sustainable energy challenge in New Member States: One major city describes how it overcame barriers to achieve cuts in energy consumption through large scale refurbishment.

Obstacles & Solutions: Overview of regulatory, legislative, financial and technical deterrents to reaching target savings (preliminary results of TACKOBST (SAVE programme))

Reaction:

Claude Turmes, MEP, Vice-Chairman, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

From 11.00 to 12.45

Case study > Tackling fuel poverty in the UK

Case study > WoonEnergie, ensuring fair energy prices for citizens in the Netherlands

Reactions:

> **Robert Goebbles**, MEP, Socialist Group, Vice-President responsible for energy policy

> **Alejo Vidal Quadras**, MEP, Group of the European People's Party, Rapporteur for 3rd Energy Package (tbc)

> **Joël Decaillon**, European Trade Union Confederation

> **Antonello Pezzini**, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee and rapporteur of the opinion *Energy efficiency of buildings - the contributions of end-users*

> **Marco Giardini**, Chairman, CECODHAS Energy Experts Network

> Discussion Moderator, **Claire Roumet**, Secretary General CECODHAS

From 12:45 to 13.00

Conclusions: Commissioner for Energy, Mr Andris Piebalgs (tbc) & Paul Louis Marty, President, CECODHAS

