Finnish Energy key messages on Commission proposal for amending directive on the energy performance of buildings

Finnish Energy welcomes the intention to streamline and simplify the directive on the energy performance of buildings. We are committed to reaching a decarbonized building stock by 2050 while district heating and electricity have the vision of being carbon neutral year 2050. It is fundamental to ensure that policies reflect both the reduction of heating demands and the connection of buildings to low-carbon heat supplies including district heating and electricity. The principal of an equal treatment between on-site RES and RES supplied through the energy carrier is essential to achieve a fully aligned framework, in line with the Heating & Cooling Strategy.

We would like to underline some strengths of the proposal and propose some areas of improvement.

1. Finnish Energy believes that both district heating and electric heating are crucial elements in reaching the decarbonized vision. Emissions from district heat and electricity production are covered by the EU-ETS system and that should be the primary policy instrument. Building directive should create a level playing field for different heating and cooling solutions by equal treatment of energy sources – both on-site and via grids.

2. Finnish Energy welcomes the Commission’s initiative to encourage the roll-out of the charging infrastructure in buildings. It is most important to speed up the market penetration of electric vehicles and thereby the decarbonisation of the road transport sector. It is important to ensure that citizens in residential buildings can charge their electric vehicles at home. This can be realized by giving them the right to install a recharging point.

3. The smartness indicator may be a promising tool for optimizing the energy consumption and heating capacity of buildings. If implemented wisely it could play an important role in the market development for flexible solutions and technologies. However, the need for policy instruments should be closely examined before empowering the Commission to adopt a delegated act on smartness indicator. Smart technologies should be capable to compete in energy service market without too much of facilitation.

The commission proposal is next processed by the Parliament with ITRE Committee and Bendt Bendtsen (DK, PPE) leading the work. The council has plans to find a general understanding during the Maltese presidency and aims for a final agreement by the end of 2017. Finnish Energy would very much like to provide more detailed argumentation on the points mentioned above as well as concrete proposals. We look forward to interacting with You during the process to ensure a balanced outcome. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance.

For additional information, please contact:

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