

**MEDIA ALERT**  
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## **BUILDINGS DIRECTIVE**



### **European industry calls for the implementation and expansion of the Buildings Directive**

Today, a group of seven European industry associations issued a joint statement on the future of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. Co-signed by COGEN Europe, the statement calls for full and rapid implementation of the Directive by all Member States. Moreover, the signatories call for expanding the scope of this piece of European legislation. Key amendments to the current Directive should be:

- Inclusion of existing buildings below 1,000 square metres
- Extension of inspection requirements
- Higher standards for public buildings

The Buildings Directive was adopted by the European Parliament in December 2002 and should have been transposed into national law by the beginning of this year. According to estimations by the European Commission, the rigorous implementation of the Directive across the EU-25 could lead to annual energy savings in the magnitude of 41 Mtoe. With additional measures, annual energy savings of up to 70 Mtoe are possible within the next 15 years, the Commission says.

“The Buildings Directive is one of the main pillars of European policy for the promotion of cogeneration. However, due to the delays in implementation, this Directive has yet to deliver any real improvements in the market”, Frank Knecht of COGEN Europe says. “In addition, due to the current limitations four fifths of the potential market is not covered yet.”

Technologies that would benefit from an expansion of the Buildings Directive are in the micro- and small-scale segment of the market, such as internal combustion engines, Stirling engines, micro-turbines and fuel cells.

#### [Joint industry statement](#)

*CHP, Combined Heat and Power, or cogeneration is the simultaneous production of heat and electricity. This proven technology produces around 10% of Europe’s electricity and heat requirements and has a significant growth potential, which will lead to an improved environment and greater economic competitiveness. It is a highly efficient energy solution that delivers substantial reductions in greenhouse gases and other pollutants and is the single largest solution to meeting the Kyoto Protocol on climate change for Europe.*

*COGEN Europe is Europe’s umbrella organisation representing the interests of the cogeneration industry, users of the technology and promoting its benefits in the EU and the wider Europe. The association is backed by the key players in the industry including gas and electricity companies, ESCOs, equipment suppliers, consultancies, national promotion organisations, financial and other service companies.*