

EEW4 External Event Report

Title of the event: Policy webinar “Fit for 55” package: is the EU on its way for fossil free cities?

<i>Date & location:</i>	Tuesday 7 th December 2021, 15:00 16:30, online for the audience and in Brussels.
<i>Organiser(s):</i>	Energy Cities
<i>Summary of the event</i>	<p>The webinars focus was set on a panel discussion on the role of cities in the Fit for 55 concerning building decarbonation and was facilitated by the journalist Anna Gumbau.</p> <p>Prior to the panel discussion Amélie Ancelle, project manager on Heating and Cooling at Energy Cities, settled the scene of this webinar and Mélanie Bourgeois, policy officer at Energy Cities, decoded the fit for 55 and in particular the Energy Efficiency and the Renewable Directives regarding cities’ role. Anna Gumbau launched a panel discussion with our speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MEP Jutta PAULAUS, the Greens/EFA Group, Shadow Rapporteur on EED - Bo FRANK, Lord mayor of Växjö (Sweden) and Vice president of Energy Cities - Adeline ROCHET, Senior policy Advisor, Place based transition team at E3G <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Fit for 55 package, key aspects for cities regarding building decarbonation are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The mandatory heat planning for cities above 50 000 inhabitants (art 23,6 EED recast) and the support mechanism 2. The renovation rate for public buildings (3% to NZEB level per year) and the reduction for energy consumption (1.7% reduction each year) (Art 5 and 6 EED recast). 3. The New provisions regarding the share of RES in heating and cooling sector (1.1% increased per year) and in the building sector (49% by 2030) (art 15a and 23 RED recast).



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- On the mandatory heat mapping provisions: all panelists welcome this provision.
 - Jutta Paulus stated that the GREENS/EFA group would like to lower the threshold of 50 000 inhabitants. She underlines that it is key to adopt a neighborhood approach as cities know the best their territory and simultaneous renovation led by municipalities can bring economy of scale. It is also important for MEP Jutta PAULUS to have a strong support mechanism. She in particular mentioned the importance of one stop shops in supporting citizens.
 - Bo FRANK mentioned that the support scheme should be accessible for all voluntary city even if below the threshold.
 - Adeline ROCHET mentioned that fossil fuels should be excluded of these planning and agree that the threshold should be lowered. She also mentioned the importance of public participation in the panning process.
- On building renovation, MEP Jutta PAULUS states that the GREEN/EFA group want to strengthen the article 6 as Member States need to aim for deep renovation. She acknowledges the removal of alternatives approach to renovations in this article.
- MEP Jutta PAULUS also states that the GREEN/EFA groups would like to exclude fossil fuels from the definition of efficient cogeneration in the article 23.
- On the importance of local level:
 - Bo FRANK called for a strong local governance to enable cities to drive locally the heat and energy transition. He states that EU should aim at a wider decentralization for a strong local governance as it is the case in Sweden.
 - MEP Jutta PAULUS mentioned that “Usually the people working in the municipalities and living there know much better how to address the problem or the challenges.”
 - Adeline ROCHET mentioned that MS should not call for flexibility at the national level but rather at the local level to adapt the solutions to the context, while still providing guidelines and milestones.

Finally, Amélie ANCELLE, concludes from Energy Cities side that:

- Data are very important for panning, mapping the resources and evaluating the energy demand
- The role of Local authorities is recognised and that on heat mapping the threshold is maybe not adapted but what is sure is that we should not prevent motivated cities to go further
- Good practices are always coming from the local level so we should look at this level and support their actions.



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ENERGY EFFICIENCY WATCH

Objective & main programme point

This webinar aimed to highlight the role that cities can play in achieving the 55% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2030, provided that the revised RED and EED deliver the appropriate support mechanisms and frameworks. Particular attention was paid to the notion of mandatory heat planning proposed in Article 23 of the recast EED; as well as to the efficiency of public buildings and the needs of cities to implement these measures.

In view with the recast EED and its implementation in the different Member states, the webinar also aimed at comparing different national situation and in particular Germany, Sweden and France regarding our guest speakers.

Conclusions

The overall discussion was very rich regarding the role of local authorities in decarbonising buildings and in particular heating, the support they need to do so, and the issue of planning.

We note that the issue of the 50,000 threshold for mandatory heat planification in cities seems too high for the panel participants. The GREEN EFA group in the European Parliament should therefore push for its lowering. On this and on the transport issues, the parliamentary speaker said she remains open to proposals for amendments.

A deep and massive wave of renovation was also called for by the participants.

Programme

Hosted by Moderated by Anna Gumbau (EU Climate and Energy journalist)

15:00 15:10 INTRODUCTION by Amélie ANCELLE (Energy Cities)

15:10 – 15:35 PRESENTATION: Fit for 55 package: local authorities and decarbonisation of buildings by Mélanie BOURGEOIS (Energy Cities) (15mn) followed by Q&A (10mn) :

1. What is in the Fit for 55 concerning the building transition for cities and the issue of planning
2. Results of the internal surveys on Energy Cities membership’s perception of the Fit for 55

15:35-16:20 PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderated by Anna GUMBAU (EU Climate and Energy journalist)

Initial statement, questions from moderation, Q&A from the audience to the panel

- Jutta PAULUS, Member of the European Parliament, Shadow Rapporteur on EED
- Bo FRANK, Lord Mayor, City of Växjö (Sweden) and Vice President of Energy Cities
- Adeline ROCHET, Senior Policy Advisor, Place Based transition team at E3G

16:20-16:30 CONCLUSION by Amélie ANCELLE (Energy Cities)



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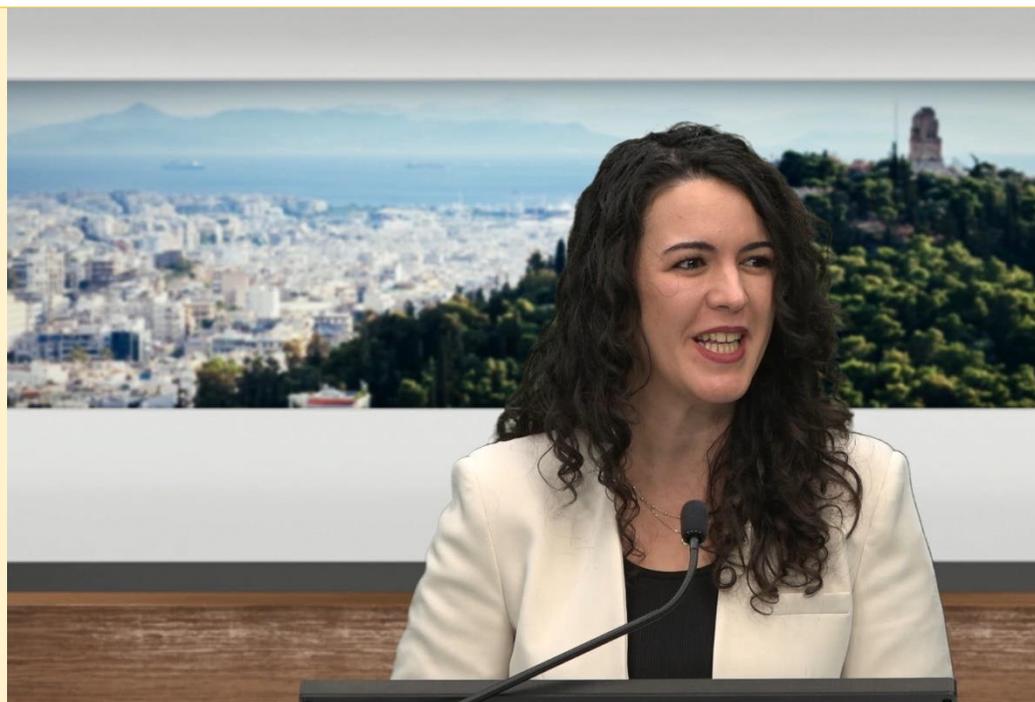
Pictures



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