

EEW4 External Event Report

Title of the event: "The European Green Deal and the National Energy and Climate Plan in Belgium"

Date & location:	Friday 1st July, 9:00-13:45, Belgian Parliament
Organiser(s):	EUFORES
Summary	<p>On Friday 1st July, EUFORES with the framework of the Energy Efficiency Watch 4 organized a national parliamentary workshop in cooperation with the Belgian House of Representatives, and Member of Parliament Ms. Séverine De Laveleye, Vice-president of the Energy, Environment and Climate Committee.</p> <p>Summary of the event:</p> <p>Séverine de Laveleye, Member and Vice-president of the House of Representatives, Vice-president of the Energy, Environment and Climate Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank EUFORES to discuss the Green Deal and NECP • We have representatives from the Commission and Members of various parliaments to make this discussion reach and inspiring • Belgium is facing different crises: environmental crisis, strategical crisis and the war in Ukraine without forgetting the health crisis • All the crises are related to the focus point of today: energy • If we are all convinced that the energy and climate crisis is paramount, an unprecedented crisis a major crisis • We have to stick to the Paris objectives today. We know what we have to do we have the technologies to achieve this goal • I hope this target will mobilize different communities, we are still lacking political will even if climate change has a lot of impact in our countries, especially in the South • In Belgium, we are facing heat waves, rainfall, our farmers are facing difficulties, the floods 1 year ago killed 45 people • We have to tackle fossil fuels; strategic choice has to be made



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- We were not able to have a phasing out of fossil fuels, financial and economic challenges prevail over living conditions
- A second crisis is a strategic crisis. Raising inflation, increase prices and food prices
- If we want peace, we need energy transition
- How to produce and supply, states are meeting such challenges
- I hope we will be able to listen what EU parliament will say
- We need to fund renewables and not fossil fuels, by 2023 we will look for the participation of citizens

Rebecca Thissen, Researcher in Climate Justice and sustainable development, CNCD

- The Climate Coalition is civil umbrella of civil society
- We are a small country, but a lot of people work on the climate plan
- We are the country that is supposed to be place for collaboration
- This plan is far from reaching our expectations
- The EU commission highlighted a lot of weak points, there is a lack of integrated and common mission
- In Belgium the result is not transparent, there is lack of structural ambition
- We have the repower EU which requires from going even further the road
- There is a lack of commitment regarding social justice policies
- The National Climate Plan gave us the opportunity to focus on coherent policies
- Climate asks to change the method for instance of the recovery plan, which was successful.
- We have to be proactive

Ciaran Cuffe, Member of European Parliament, Group of the Greens, President of EUFORES

- Also, during Covid, The Green Deal did not stop being important
- We need to change the way we produce energy, transport, and the way we do agriculture
- With Covid we had to reimagine our lives, live with the community, and learn how to be resilient
- If we bring the same attitude in the energy transition, we can make it happen
- I have optimism, in Ireland we went from no RES to 40% now, we open first social commercial farms.
- If we can operate solar farms in island, I think everything is possible



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- I am optimistic that the EU green Deal is a complicated piece of legislation but the big picture, the EE directive, the RES energy directive, we are getting more ambitious.
- Compelling reason to move away from fossil fuels, EU union has been dependent on Russian gas and that is another reason to make the energy transition soon
- I am optimistic about the EU Green Deal, the first element is renewables, the second element is energy efficiency, which is not talked about enough even if we know that the energy saved is a real help in the challenges that we face. The third element is moving away from Russian oil quickly.
- If we decarbonise buildings, we are well on the way, talking about the European investment we need to do that. It will provide the jobs of the future. I am optimistic.

Eric Lecomte, Policy Officer, DG ENER, European Commission

- The challenges were addressed by previous speakers, the climate changes and the new dependence on fossil fuel since the war in Ukraine
- Our energy mix is still very dependent on Russia.
- It is a huge dependency, we cannot live with that anymore
- I have put a lot of pressure on households this is also what we need to tackle
- We are dependent on pipelines to survive the winters
- Belgium has a role to play, that is where the cooperation comes into play
- The underground storage we do not have much in Belgium
- It is only by cooperation we can be less dependent by Russia
- The short-term goal is the RePowerEU proposal to be less dependent from Russia, the mid-term goal to accelerate the energy transition is by diversifying energy sources and reduce the demand of energy.

Q&A

Quentin Galland: EE is the elephant in the room but it is not adressed enough, repower EU did set an increased target from 9% to 30% on EE, from your view how do you see for the outcoming negotiations and in the increase fo target?

Ciaran Cuffe: We do not place enough emphasis on this area, also within the EU Parliament it is overlooked in the discussions. We need to place more emphasis on it.



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Dirk Van Evercooren: We are supporting high targets, only by changing our behaviours we can reduce 5% of energy even without any renovation work. For the Commission EE first has always been the motto. Only way to reach targets.

SESSION 2 ENERGY EFFICIENCY:

Julien Simon, Building renovation, energy market and renewable energy Advisor, Cabinet of Minister Mr. Alain Maron

- We try to mobilize our citizens to guide the government for future measures
- Leaving the fossil energy is an important point, as of 2025 you will not be able to install a new oil or carbon installation.
- We are aiming at -35 with the Fit for 55.
- What is encouraging is that the momentum is functioning between -25% in Brussels, we had a more important reduction following the covid crisis.
- It is interesting to see what happens before.
- To see the improvement of #energy efficiency in the building sector which represents 56 % of green gas emission
- The renovation of Brussels houses is essential to see the improvement of energy efficiency in the building sector which represents 56 % of green gas emission in Brussels. By 2033 no buildings in Brussels should still rate F or G.
- We want to get rid of the bad EE building by 2033, no buildings should still be F or G
- The same objective of is proportioned between public and private buildings
- To reach the major objective we need to fix a common horizon for all the actors in Brussels in the air climate plan in Brussels we have the obligation of having this energy efficiency certification to have figures about what is in Brussels and have a better vision regarding the situation on co-ownership and private buildings.
- We want to get rid of the bad EE building by 2033, no buildings should still be F or G in their certifications
- We are trying to fix measures to reach out
- In 2045 we want to push renovation for a C level of this certification, this is the timeline we are setting
- We need to step away from the fossil energies, it shows a lack of resilience regarding the price hikes of these recent months
- We need to find out how we can come out of these fossil energies have a regional vision and at the neighborhood level to see the RES regarding the building
- We need a vision at neighboring level to see how to decarbonize the building
- The objective is not to replace fossil fuel dependency by using important quantity of resources, the idea to reach a circular system.



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- The point of this strategy or revolution we try to make people meet and discuss the alliance and the possibility to renovate.

Roel Vermeiren, Project Coordinator, Flemish Energy and Climate Agency – VEKA

- Our project is an EU funding instrument for environment and climate action
- It is a LIFE BE REEL project, a large-scale project in the Flemish and Walloon Region, that aims at fast implementation of validated plans or strategies for renovation
- Another target of the project is to have high performant sustainable heating dwellings
- What we did in practice was to bring good examples of local renovation strategy to local authorities
- We provided a tool for data-supported strategy development and a step-by-step plan for project development
- LESSONS LEARNED: EU funds offer time and capacity for product development and exchange, Speeds things up, enriches policy development based on experiences (+ and Stimulates cooperation central & local level + interregional
- BUT there are heavy application procedures, Heavy reporting workload, Staff recruitment and retention is not easy, big projects are not evident to manage
- NEXT LIFE grant approval will be the Stop Shop development 2023 2025: smaller and more focus

Niels Smeets, EU Policy Coordinator Energy, Federal Public Service of Economy

- Industry consumption and buildings space heating and isolation and electrification of transport are a priority
- We want to promote active transport use and electrification of it, by keeping railway tickets at reasonable prices

Q&A:

JG: I live in Brussels, I have no time I am not the owner, landlord is old, what is the fastest way to get to deep renovation?

Niels Smeets: Coming up with a way to address the owner, come up with an approach based on obligations, in 2025 there will be a limitation based on EPC label that will put pressure on landlords and people to renovate.

SESSION3: EEW4

Daniel Becker, Director, Guidehouse

- The project EEW4 to tackle the urgency of EE with policy instruments



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- We have an impressive toolbox in place after years of this project
 - What was disappointing was the level of implementation
 - Perception and connotation of policy instrument
 - Higher buy in from stakeholders
 - We came up with 10 Narrative Cases,
 - How do we motivate people to renovate their homes?
 - What is the affection or non-affection of stakeholders we want to act to take a certain action.
 - You have to know your target group
 - We have an excellent potential to wood heating
 - This connotation for EE should be connotated quickly
 - Empowering research and innovation are making its point if you have a research landscape according institutions you are likely if you deal with new technologies to create a powerful advocate for change.
 - Often the target group does not understand for what they are compensated for the extra costs
 - That level of complexities often not needed
 - These measures run a risk to be unpopular unless you make clear where is the compensatory effect.
 - Just transition is an important topic and interesting, the phrase implies a risk of being mistaken
- Tristan Roberti, Member of the House of Representatives
- I am member of the regional Parliament, my vision is more a regional and local vision,
 - There are energy workshops being set up,
 - We have identified the tools that can be used by people in order to renovate their houses
 - I take the example of Watermael, buildings are managed by municipality
 - Between 2004 and 2020 we had 45% savings in terms of gas and electricity
 - The same person that started this is still working there, the process is very dynamic, every year organizing a reception on how it works and how it works
 - In EU we spend a lot of time transposing EU directives, we have to improve and be quicker,
 - We at the regional level still need building permits to renovate roofs and façade
 - Sometimes we have situations where we have plans being elaborated which do not correspond to the present situation.
 - Billion euros are being invested in renovating buildings



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Daniel: Great, thanks for your input, it shows an example of integral view of targets and how the political level needs to act together

Maarten Messagie, Managing Director, Electric Vehicle and Energy Research Group - EVERGi

- Experience on relevance of narratives and observations
- Thank you for the list of cases
- It was a good summary of that already
- I want to pinpoint this element more I am professor at university in Brussels
- We work on Sustainable energy and come from a long history on electric vehicles,
- Interdisciplinary group in the faculty of engineering
- First observation: energy we do not have an energy problem as such as availability of energy, we live in abundance of energy our problem is there was a dirty cheap alternative in the industrial revolution which is CO2
- Point N2 on EE important topic elephant in the room, important to understand the definition of EE it starts from basic problem that is not in the correct form in the way we want to digest
- There is diesel and petrol that comes from energy
- We need to transform that energy into total energy, total expansion transforms it in kinetic energy
- If we convert energy from one form to the other we lose energy
- We need to keep the energy as close as the form it was in,
- You have wind, you produce electricity you electrolyse water into hydrogen and you transform it. Hydrogen great but great when it belongs to oxidise, strong chemical energy. This is how we have to look at the problematic of EE, which form we have which energy effect we have, which application and which factor.
- We need to look at full supply chain, there is a lot of embedded energy
-

Daniel Becker: your intervention connects to the cases what is the view of economics of EE

Adrian Joyce, Director, European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings – EuroACE

- Thanks EUFORES to invite me
- Our session was about narratives
- I wondered how time bound are the narratives, was the energy storage let me think?



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- Can we as a community build resilient narratives that are more convincing for a longer frame?
- That is a reflection of the EEW4 project which is so powerful as you gathered much information across time
- How can we as a community build a more substantial dialogue between EE and RES?
- By 2050 only RES will be available, the dialogue between the sector has not been there enough
- I would like to put forward the idea of the EE word, How can we have more substantial dialogue between the two sectors?
- I do not like the language of the demand and supply; we should rather talk about desire.
- EE prices in Ukraine gave emotional charge, in Poland shortage of gas, answer of Polish government coal plants will be kept open
- The only way to overcome that suggest government they have temporary resources in the segment of the economy
- We should insulate 45% of Brussels houses

Quentin Galland, Public and Regulatory Affairs Director, Knauf Insulation

- Can we consider building stock as energy source itself?
- We should divert investments of energy capacity to insulate homes.
- We citizens will live affordable homes for winter and summer

Objective & main programme point

The main objective of the workshop was to trigger a fruitful discussion on the latest situation on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources development in Belgium and more specifically the European Green Deal, the Climate Law and the Recovery Plan that will improve the status of the Belgian National energy efficiency and renewable energy sources legislation and instruments.

The discussion took place between Members of Belgium and European Parliament, representatives of ministries, industry, NGOs, scientists and other stakeholders.

Another objective was that to introduce the EEW4 survey results to the Belgian energy community in order to brainstorm on successful narrative development for the implementation of policies that aim at the energy transition.



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ENERGY EFFICIENCY WATCH
Conclusions

The event presented the current situation for energy efficiency and renewable energies in Belgium, and how they will be addressed via the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP), considering the European Green Deal and Recovery Plan.

Energy Efficiency has been called the elephant in the room by Quentin Galland and Maarten Messagie. The speakers agreed that energy efficiency is not talked about enough even if we know that the energy saved is a real help in the challenges that we face. We do not place enough emphasis on this area, also within the EU Parliament it is overlooked in the discussions.

To see the improvement of energy efficiency in the building sector which represents 56 % of green gas emission, the renovation of Brussels houses is essential to see the improvement of energy efficiency in the building sector which represents 56 % of green gas emission in Brussels. By 2033 no buildings in Brussels should still rate F or G. Empowering research and innovation is an important point to make EE stronger, are likely if you deal with new technologies to create a powerful advocate for change.

It is important to understand the definition of EE it starts from basic problem.

Other speakers raised the question of how can we as a community build a more substantial dialogue between EE and RES? By 2050 only RES will be available, the dialogue between the sector has not been there enough. Adrian Joyce, would like to put forward the question: How can we have more substantial dialogue between the two sectors?



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ENERGY EFFICIENCY WATCH

Programme

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WORKSHOP

The European Green Deal and the National Energy and Climate Plan in Belgium

Organized in cooperation with the Belgian House of Representatives

1ST JULY 2022

9H00 – 13H45 BRUSSELS TIME

House of Representatives – Erasme Room
Rue de Louvain 48 – 1000 Bruxelles

Working languages: English, French and Dutch with simultaneous interpretation provided

OPENING SESSION – 9H00 – 9H30

- 9h00 – 9h010 **Opening words**
Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES
- 9h10 – 9h20 **Welcoming speech**
Séverine de Laveleye, Member and Vice-president of the House of Representatives, Vice-president of the Energy, Environment and Climate Committee
- 9h20 – 9h30 **The Belgian Climate claims and urgent need for Climate Justice**
Rebecca Thissen, Researcher in Climate Justice and sustainable development, CNCD



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SESSION 1– 9H30-10H30

Setting the ambition for renewable energy and energy efficiency in Belgium

The session will present the current situation for renewable energy and energy efficiency in Belgium, and how they will be addressed via the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP), considering the European Green Deal and Recovery Plan. The session intends to set the picture of the present and discuss the development of policies for the renewable energy and energy efficiency system of the future for Belgium.

Input speeches

- 9h30 – 9h40 **The role of renewable energy and energy efficiency for the Belgian green energy transition**
Ciaran Cuffe, Member of European Parliament, Group of the Greens, President of EUFORES
- 9h40 – 9h50 **The urgent need to design an efficient energy policy in Belgium**
Dirk Van Evercooren, Director, Sustainable Energy Organisation -ODE
- 9h50 – 10h00 **The challenges within the European energy union for the integration and development of a sustainable energy system: A special focus on the upcoming challenges for Belgium**
Eric Lecomte, Policy Officer, DG ENER, European Commission

10h00 – 10h15 Questions and Answers

10h15 – 10h30 Break



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SESSION 2 – 10H30 – 11H15

EU energy efficiency policy implementation in Belgium

This session discusses success stories on implementing energy efficiency policies in EU countries and good practices for boosting investments. Held as part of the Energy-Efficiency-Watch series, this session aims at exploring the conditions and argumentative drivers for effective implementation.

Chair: Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES

- **10h30 – 10h40** **Targeting homeowners to make Brussels homes energy efficient**
Julien Simon, Building renovation, energy market and energy efficiency Advisor, Cabinet of Minister Mr. Alain Maron,
- **10h40 - 10h50** **European funds for strategic housing renovation plans in Brussels and Wallonia**
Roel Vermeiren, Project Coordinator, Flemish Energy and Environment Agency – VEKA
- **10h50 - 11h00** **Belgian energy efficiency trends and policies by sector**
Niels Smeets, EU Policy Coordinator Energy, Federal Public Service Economy

11h00 – 11h15 Questions and Answers



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SESSION 3 – ENERGY EFFICIENCY - 11H15 – 12H30

Enabling factors and barriers for implementing energy efficiency in

The Energy-Efficiency-Watch 4 project tries to create a better understanding of the national motivation on efficiency policies and good practices. This session focuses on the influence of Belgium. Preliminary feedback received from business stakeholders in the project will be discussed.

Chair: Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES

- **11h15-11h25** **Successful narratives in the Belgian context for effective implementation**
Daniel Becker, Director, Guidehouse
- **11h25-11h50** **Expert Panel**
Moderator: **Daniel Becker**, Director, Guidehouse
- **Tristan Roberti**, Member of the French-speaking Brussels Parliament
- **Maarten Messagie**, Managing Director, Electric Vehicle and Energy Research Group
- **Adrian Joyce**, Director, European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings
- **Quentin Galland**, Public and Regulatory Affairs Director, Knauf Insulation

11h50 - 12h00 Questions and Answers

12h00 – 12h30 Lunch Break

Sessions 1, 2 and 3 are organized in the framework of the Energy Efficiency Watch 4 project. Watch 4 (EEW4) is a HORIZON 2020 project, coordination, and support action, aiming at supporting EU MS in improving the degree of a successful implementation of policy instruments for energy efficiency contributing to reaching the target of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED).



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ENERGY EFFICIENCY WATCH

Pictures



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