



President Ursula von der Leyen

Video Address

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

Dear Czech Presidency,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The heating season in Europe has begun.

This, and the high energy prices, raise attention to the importance of saving energy.

We all know, making buildings more energy efficient is indispensable in the fight against climate change.

Now we're learning the lesson that renovation will also help build an independent Europe.

Less energy consumption means less dependency from Russian fossil fuels and blackmail.

Energy security is high up on the political agenda.

Our program RePowerEU and the Renovation Wave are contributing to a more resilient European Union.

The scope of potential is considerable.

We know that buildings account for a sizable chunk of Europe's energy consumption.



They are responsible for over 1 in 3 energy-related carbon dioxide molecules that we Europeans release into atmosphere.

Over 1 in 3.

That is why one of the first measures we launched under the European Green Deal was the Renovation Wave.

To double the rate of renovation this decade.

We stayed the course on this commitment through the pandemic.

Thanks to NextGenerationEU, an additional 72.5 billion euros in European investment is going towards renovation.

Yet the vast majority of these investments have yet to be spent by our Member States.

So my message is: let's accelerate.

Let's put massive funds into renovation.

For it is one of the best investments we can make at this moment.

Implementation is key.

Some say Europe's buildings sector is not yet on track to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

But we can correct this.

The Energy Performance Buildings Directive is our opportunity to do so.



The Commission has made its ambition clear.

With RePowerEU, Europe's plan to turn off Russian gas, we are calling to: double of the rate of deployment of heat pumps, and install 600GW of solar photovoltaic capacity by 2030.

Rather than subsidising energy use, we encourage Member States to help families and companies save energy.

For example, through reduced VAT rates on energy efficient heating systems and building insulation.

We are eager to support from the European level as much as we can.

That's why, for example, we proposed the Social Climate Fund to help vulnerable households in energy transition.

This is how we stay the course on the green transition.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe we all agree on the urgent need to decarbonise our economy and our homes.

Faced with war, with a fossil fuel crisis, the arguments in favour of the Renovation Wave have only become more pressing.

Investing in renovation is a no regret option.

So I look forward to continuing our close cooperation.

And I wish you a productive day in the European Parliament.



Thank you.