

The Consumer Voice in Europe

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18 October 2022

Subject: BEUC's view on the solar mandate: Ambitious measures needed in the EPBD for solar panels on new residential buildings

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

In Europe, buildings are responsible for around 40 % of energy consumption and 36 % of CO₂ emissions. Therefore, particularly in the building sector, ambitious measures are needed so that the European Union can reach its carbon neutrality objective by 2050.

To this end, the European Commission, as part of its Solar Strategy, has proposed amending the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive to include a solar mandate for buildings, which includes ensuring that from 2029, PV panels be installed on all new residential buildings.

This mandate not only is an opportunity to speed up our decarbonisation goals; it will also generate significant financial benefits for European consumers. In the context of spiralling energy costs due to our reliance on Russian gas, accelerating the roll out of solar panels means reducing consumers' energy bills and becoming more independent from volatile fossil fuel prices.

This mandate would not come at a significant cost for consumers, as the cost of solar panels has significantly dropped in the past few years.

For this reason, from the consumer perspective, while we welcome the principle of the Commission's proposal requiring new residential buildings to be equipped with solar panels, **we urge MEPs to bring this requirement forward from 2029 to 2024.**

The roofs of new buildings can easily be designed so that solar panels can be fitted with the right orientation and inclination to maximise their power production.

Since the barriers to making new buildings solar-ready from 2024 are quite low, this deadline should be brought forward, as it has great financial benefits and little to no added burden on consumers.

Bringing this mandate forward by five years should also encourage the construction industry in Europe to pivot towards solar energy at a faster rate, while sending the right market signals to PV panel manufacturers and investors.

We thank you for your consideration of this proposal and we are available for discussion on the topic at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Monique Goyens
Director General