

## European legislative framework for Solar Thermal Obligations

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Description:	<p>For the first time, the new European Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2009/28/EC) covers the heating and cooling sector, which is responsible for nearly half of Europe's energy demand. For the first time, it is established that "Member States shall ensure that certification schemes or equivalent qualification schemes become or are available by 31 December 2012 for installers ...", and that "Member States shall promote certified equipment and systems based on European standards where these exist, including eco-labels, energy labels and other technical reference systems established by the European standardisation bodies."</p> <p>In June 2010, the EPBD recast of the Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings (2002/91/EC) was published (Directive 2010/31/EU). It introduces for the first time a European-wide definition of "nearly zero energy buildings", establishing that Member States "shall take the necessary measures to ensure that minimum energy performance requirements for buildings and building units" (new and existing buildings when undergo major renovation)", are set with a view to achieving cost-optimal levels", and "shall set system requirements in respect of the overall energy performance, the proper installation, and the appropriate dimensioning, adjustment and control of the technical building systems which are installed in existing buildings".</p> <p>In relation with the EPBD Directive, the ongoing adoption process of the eco-design and energy labeling measures for space and water heating systems can also be pointed out.</p> <p>With both the Renewable Energy Directive and the EPBD paving the way for a gradual phase-in of renewable energy in buildings, it is crucial that not only EU Member States but also local communities take a proactive stance and do their utmost to coordinate the implementation of both pieces of legislation.</p>
Link/Download:	<a href="http://www.solarordinances.eu">www.solarordinances.eu</a>

## **Introduction**

For the first time, the new European Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2009/28/EC) covers the heating and cooling sector, which is responsible for nearly half of Europe's energy demand.

### **Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from Renewable Energy Sources (RES)**

In March 2007, the Heads of State and Government of the EU 27 countries adopted a binding target of 20% final energy consumption from renewable energy by 2020.

In January 2008, the European Commission presented a draft Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from Renewable Energy Sources (RES) which contains a series of elements to create the necessary legislative framework for making 20% renewable energy become a reality.

After the European Parliament and the Council agreed upon the RES Directive in December 2008, it entered into force in June 2009. If properly transposed into national law, the RES Directive will become the most ambitious piece of legislation on renewable energy in the world.

### **Heating and Cooling from Renewable Energy Sources**

As far as heating and cooling is concerned, the RES Directive closes the legislative gap which existed so far for this sector. For the first time, heating and cooling - responsible for nearly half of Europe's energy demand - will be covered by a Europe Directive promoting renewable energies. Thus the RES Directive creates a positive climate for the long-term development of solar thermal technologies in Europe.

[Download the text of the RES Directive \(2009/28/EC\)](#)

Read more on [www.solarthermalworld.org](http://www.solarthermalworld.org)

### **The National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAPs)**

Following the adoption of the RES Directive, the 27 EU Member States' governments will have to submit, before the end of June 2010, detailed National Renewable Action Plans. These plans set out Member States' national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020 as well as adequate measures to achieve these targets, including the introduction of renewable heat ordinances:

#### **Directive 2009/28/EC, Art. 12.4:**

*"In the building regulations and codes or any way with equivalent effect, Member States shall by 2015 at the latest, where appropriate, require the use, of minimum levels of energy from renewable sources in new buildings and in existing buildings that are subject to major renovation."*

Please click [here](#) for further information on the Template for the National Renewable Energy Action Plans.

## **For a proper transposition of the RES Directive into national law**

Ambitious national growth targets for solar thermal installed capacity by 2020 according to the specific potential and current market development of each Member State.

To reach these targets, Member States should be required to implement renewable energy obligations for new buildings and for buildings undergoing renovation. The building sector is key to tackling the heating and cooling sector, which accounts for nearly half of the final energy demand in Europe.

In parallel to the RES Directive, the recast of the European Performance of Building Directive plays a major role in increasing the share of renewable energy sources in European buildings.

## **New buildings to be “near-zero-energy” constructions by 2020**

On 18 May 2010, the recast of the Directive on energy performance of buildings (2002/91/EC) was adopted by the European Parliament. It introduces for the first time a European-wide definition of ‘nearly zero energy buildings’.

Up to now, only a handful of Member States had definitions for low energy/plus energy or zero carbon buildings, and these were all different. Nearly-zero-energy buildings are now defined in the EPBD as constructions that have "a very high energy performance". Any energy that they use should come "to a very significant extent" from renewable energy sources. New buildings will have to be nearly zero energy buildings by 31 December 2020 with public buildings having to fulfil this standard two years earlier. In effect, the European Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) sets out a renewable energy obligation for buildings by 2020.

Under this Directive, the Member States must set minimum requirements in connection with the energy performance of new and existing buildings, ensure the certification of their energy performance and require the regular inspection of boilers and air conditioning systems in buildings.



More information is available on BUILD UP, the European portal for energy efficiency in buildings: [www.buildup.eu](http://www.buildup.eu)

## **Conclusion**

With both the Renewable Energy Directive and the EPBD paving the way for a gradual phase-in of renewable energy in buildings, it is crucial that not only EU Member States but also local communities take a proactive stance and do their utmost to coordinate the implementation of both pieces of legislation.

## ***Imprint***

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See [www.solarordinances.eu](http://www.solarordinances.eu) for more information on solar thermal ordinances and the ProSTO project.

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