

Brussels, 22 June 2005

Energy performance certificate awarded to the European Commission's headquarters "the Berlaymont"

Today, a group of Member States' experts handed over the Certificates on the Energy Performance of the Berlaymont Building to the Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs. Such certificates are one of a number of measures set out in the European legislation on the Energy Performance of Buildings. From 2006, all large public buildings in the European Union will be required to display them for the visiting public to see. Commissioner Piebalgs said: "The Berlaymont certification is an excellent and timely initiative to illustrate and raise awareness of this important legislation in the buildings sector. Buildings account for 40% of the energy consumed in the Union and more than 1/5 of this energy could be saved by applying tougher standards on buildings. This is also a sector where the energy efficiency measures could have important job-creation impacts as we highlight in the Commission's Green Paper on Energy Efficiency".

The Member States must implement the measures set out in the Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings¹ by 4 January 2006. The recent refurbishment of the Berlaymont building offered a good opportunity for the European Commission to lead the way by arranging for the energy certification of this building in advance of the Directive's full implementation. In 2004, Austria, France, Germany, Netherlands, Poland and Portugal agreed to give the Commission's headquarters building an energy rating, as if the Berlaymont was located in their own country. Experts from the participating Member States came to Brussels to receive the data and to undertake an inspection of the building.

All the certificates awarded today give "good" to "very good" energy efficiency ratings to the building and conclude that it performs considerably better than the average equivalent building in their country. Its consumption per square metres is about half of the current average for comparable buildings.

The final results vary from country to country. In fact, as the work was completed in advance of the Directive's full implementation, the Member States used this opportunity to test national or new methods which emphasise different energy saving aspects of the building. The exercise is also now an opportunity to compare their results. The format and content of the certificates prepared for the Berlaymont are not final or legally-binding. Some Member States have not yet decided how their certificates will look, what benchmarks and the information they will contain.

When implemented in Belgium, *Bruxelles-Capital* will be responsible for ensuring that the Berlaymont and other public buildings in its jurisdiction comply with the Directive.

More information: Tren-Building-Directive@cec.eu.int

¹ Directive 2002/91/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2002 on the energy performance of buildings, Official Journal L 00 , 04/01/2003 P. 0065 - 0071