

# Policy Instruments for the energy efficiency sector: enabling mechanisms for a "FIT for 55" efficient transition (PIREES55)

Environmental policies research group

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Marc RINGEL



Dr Marc Ringel is director of the European Chair for Sustainable Development and Climate Transition at Sciences Po. He is full professor with Nuertingen Geislingen University,

Germany, and senior affiliate researcher with Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Belgium.

As trained economist (habilitation with Technical University of Darmstadt), his research focusses European energy and climate policies, notably the impacts of the European Green Deal and a comparative assessment of the « Fit for 55 » legislative package.

## Cooperation partners:

- Stefan POLLINGER (Sciences Po)
- Michele FIORETTI (Sciences Po)
- Roberto RODRIGUEZ (CEE, Sciences Po)
- Yamina SAHEB (PSIA)

The goal of PIREES55 is to shed light on the enabling mechanisms needed to reach the proposed targets of the European Commission's "Fit for 55" legislative package in the energy efficiency field.

## Project framework and structure:

The project analyses up streamed and down streamed mechanisms foreseen in the energy efficiency legislation of the "Fit for 55" legislative package. It investigates how these can be translated into national policy guidelines and strategies.

This concerns two strands of research:

- (1) Cross-cutting implementation of the revised energy efficiency Directive (EED). Here stakeholder feedback on the final negotiation outcomes is assessed and compared to earlier input for the start of the negotiation of the EED. This will lead to a gap analysis that allows to derive recommendations for supporting guidelines for national transposition.
- (1) Energy efficiency in buildings and the revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive: The overall goal of this research strand is to understand the factors both human, technical, political and policy-related to foster the successful implementation of policy instruments oriented to improve EE in residential buildings in Europe and in the UK.

## Methods:

The project applies a **mixed method approach** combining qualitative surveying of stakeholders (European actors, large-scale surveys of households in the UK, France and Germany), followed up by expert interviews. The project is set in an interdisciplinary perspective, combining methods from economics, political and other social sciences.

## Project status:

In December a **pre-kick-off workshop** was held jointly with the EIB in Brussels to gather field experts' guidance for the project. It emerged that experts still see a strong **need for better European coordination of energy efficiency and clean energy policies**. Especially the linking of energy efficiency and renewable energy policies is seen as crucial for updating the present legal framework.

Regarding energy efficiency in the building sector, the workshop confirmed the strong **need to gather further data and insights on household renovation decisions beyond pure economic incentives**. A follow-up workshop is planned at the occasion of the European Sustainable Energy Week in June 2023.

## Revision of the energy efficiency directive explained

So far, the EU energy efficiency directive has contributed to energy savings of almost one third compared to the 2007 consumption projections for 2030.

However, in light of its commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 by at least 55%, the EU must become much more energy-efficient and the current rules need revision.



## Energy performance of buildings directive explained

The revision of the directive sets up new, more ambitious energy efficiency standards for new and renovated buildings in the EU. The aim is to encourage property owners across the EU to renovate their buildings.

By 2050, all buildings in the EU should be zero-emission buildings.



## How does it contribute to the goal of climate neutrality?

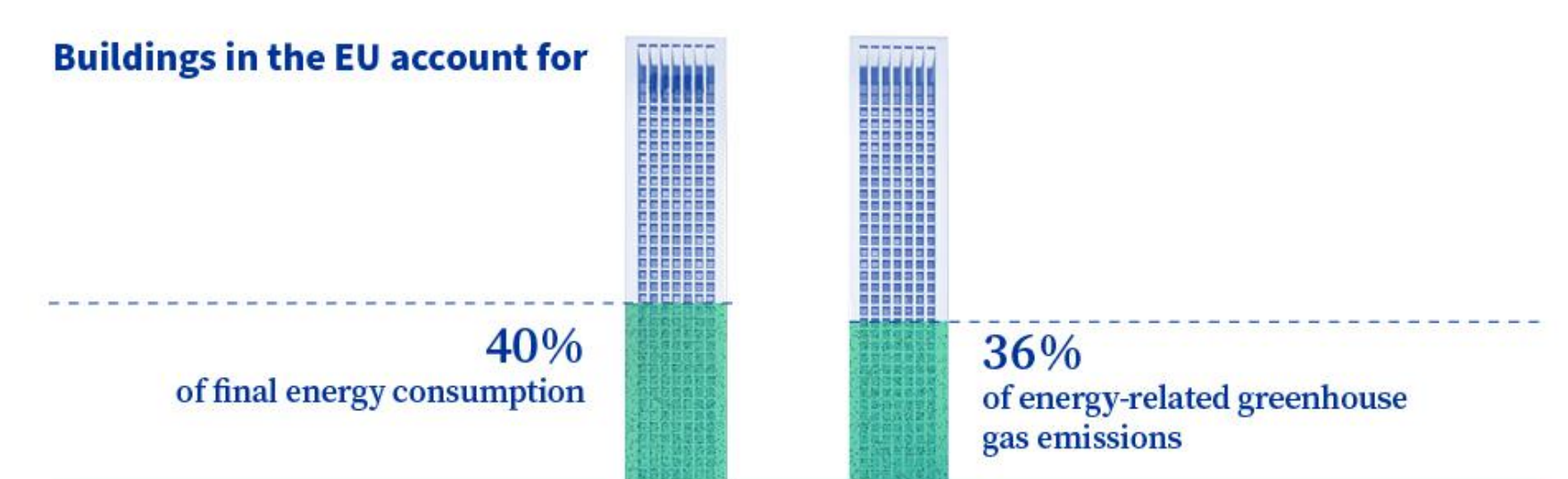


Figure 1 - Infographic - Fit for 55: How the EU will become more energy-efficient; Fit for 55: Making buildings in the EU greener. Source : Council of the European Union. 2023.

## Expected results:

1. Insights into **persisting gaps** in the European legislative framework on energy efficiency and subsequent guidelines for policy implementation at national level
2. Large-scale data on **household renovation decisions**
3. Insights into **incentives and barriers that support or work against household motivation** to invest in building renovation.