

EN

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Answer given by Ms Simson
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.9.2024)

The Commission is aware that places of worship, like many public non-residential buildings of a certain size, are faced with considerable financial challenges with regard to their maintenance. At European level, the new Directive on the energy performance of buildings (Directive (EU) 2024/1275¹), which entered into force on 29 May 2024 with a two-year deadline for its transposition, is a decisive tool for improving the efficiency and performance of buildings by prioritising the renovation of the worst-performing buildings.

The Directive's scope covers all buildings that use energy, including places of worship. The latter may be exempted from certain standards, although this is just a derogation that Member States may introduce, if they so wish, as part of the transposition.

In terms of funding, the Commission is already giving significant support to the energy renovation of buildings through a number of programmes and funds (Recovery and Resilience Facility, Cohesion, and soon the Social Climate Fund). These funds are made available to countries and local authorities to finance their priorities in each economic sector.

Ultimately, the Directive includes a whole set of measures aimed at establishing an enabling framework for guiding and financing renovations.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202401275#d1e1151-1-1