

EN

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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
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For residential buildings, the recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)¹ does not require mandatory improvements to individual buildings but imposes an average improvement at national level. Member States have flexibility as regards which part of their building stock they focus on, while at the same time prioritising the worst-performing ones.

For non-residential buildings, Member States may exclude protected ones from the obligation to achieve minimum levels of energy performance. In doing so, Member States are responsible for defining the protected status according to national rules and the level of exemptions granted to such buildings.

In 2025, the Commission adopted a support package² offering guidance to help EU countries implement and transpose the EPBD including on exemptions for protected buildings³.

Many renovation measures can be applied without compromising architectural or historical merits thanks to technological innovations. Some EU-supported practical resources are available.⁴

In assessing transposition, the Commission will verify compliance with the Directive, while considering the flexibility allowed to develop tailor-made solutions reflecting local building characteristics. The Commission supports efforts to protect the cultural heritage value of buildings.

¹ EU/2024/1275.

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:C_202506438&qid=1781795107732.

³ More specifically on exemptions for protected buildings cf. Annex 1 section 2.3.2.2.1.

⁴ <https://publ.icomos.org/publicomos/jlbSai?html=Bur&base=technica&ref=45348&file=4293.pdf&path=EPBD%20Thematic%20analysis.pdf> <https://hiberatlas.eurac.edu/en/welcome-1.html>.