

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002308/26
to the Commission
Ioan-Rareş Bogdan (PPE)
(4 June 2026)

Subject: Guarantees for vulnerable consumers in Romania in the application of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

The entry into force on 30 May 2026 of the revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive imposes decarbonisation objectives to be achieved by 2050. However, the structure of building stock differs from country to country. Romania is a unique case. The rate of private home ownership exceeds 95%, largely medium- and low-income families or pensioners who are already at risk of energy poverty. In addition, the transition from heating based on natural gas — a strategic resource in which massive investment has been made — to fully electrified systems is putting pressure on low-voltage distribution networks, which require long-lasting modernisation.

1. How does the Commission anticipate that Romania will be able to raise the capital needed for major renovations without causing a credit crunch or excluding citizens who are ineligible for private co-financing?
2. Given the strategic investments in regional security (such as the gas fields in the Black Sea), what margin of flexibility will the Commission allow when assessing National Plans for countries that decide to use hybrid systems (gas-hydrogen or gas-heat pump) beyond the standard time limits for phasing out fossil fuel boilers?
3. In rural areas where centralised infrastructure or smart electricity networks do not allow for the installation of heat pumps, will the Commission agree to the use of high-efficiency biomass (wood) stoves as a solution consistent with emissions reduction objectives, without penalising Member States?

Submitted: 4.6.2026

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(26 August 2026)

The Commission acknowledges the investment needs for renovation and the necessary support to the most vulnerable EU citizens. This is reflected in the budgetary allocation through EU Funds, European Investment Bank instruments and other initiatives ⁽¹⁾.

In its recovery and resilience plan ⁽²⁾, Romania had EUR 2.9 billion allocated for energy-efficiency renovation and seismic consolidation of residential and public buildings.

Other EUR 2.3 billion are allocated for the period 2021-2027 from the Cohesion funds for investment in improving the energy performance of residential and public buildings, renewables and smart energy systems.

To further mobilise private financing for energy efficiency, improve citizens' access to finance and de-risk investments, the Commission is working together with the EU Member States, financial institutions and industry within the European Energy Efficiency Financing Coalition ⁽³⁾.

Directive (EU) 2024/1275 on the Energy Performance of Buildings (EPBD) ⁽⁴⁾ requires for a trajectory for progressive renovation of the residential building stock and not of each building.

National building renovation plans are the tool foreseen to draw up measures adapted to specific national conditions, estimate investment needs and identify financing sources. Romania has submitted its draft plan in December 2025.

It is possible to install hybrid heating systems, in line with specific conditions provided by the Commission guidance ⁽⁵⁾ ⁽⁶⁾. While the EPBD obliges Member States to set out policies and measures with view of a complete phase-out of fossil fuel boilers, the date (2040) is an indicative target.

The use of sustainable biomass in high-efficient heating systems is compliant with the EU energy legislation. There is no obligation to install heat pumps.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2026) 118 final, Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Energy Efficiency financing in Europe An assessment of public spending for energy efficiency and the energy performance of buildings: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52026DC0118>.

⁽²⁾ https://reforms-investments.ec.europa.eu/recovery-and-resilience-facility-1/country-pages/romania-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en.

⁽³⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/energy-efficiency/financing/european-energy-efficiency-financing-coalition_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202401275.

⁽⁵⁾ See Annex 11 of Commission Notice C/2025/6438: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C_202506438&qid=1770117648048.

⁽⁶⁾ See Commission Notice C/2024/6206: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/6206/oj/eng/pdf>.