

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-003914/26
to the Commission**

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(29 September 2026)

Subject: Exclusion of envelope insulation measures from Italy's Social Climate Plan

Italy's Social Climate Plan (2026-2032) earmarks funding for the energy rehabilitation of public buildings and vulnerable micro-enterprises, but excludes measures for the insulation of building envelopes on the basis that they are too costly ⁽¹⁾, giving priority to new installations and window replacement.

This approach does not appear to be consistent with Regulation (EU) 2023/955 — which includes building renovation as an eligible investment and places special emphasis on the worst-performing buildings occupied by vulnerable persons — or with the 'energy efficiency first' principle.

In fact, updating the installations in worst-performing buildings without significantly reducing losses keeps consumption high and does not alleviate the problem of energy poverty. Furthermore, the specific exclusion of thermal insulation infringes the principle of technological neutrality.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission believe that Italy's exclusion of envelope insulation from its Social Climate Plan is consistent with Regulation (EU) 2023/955 and the 'energy efficiency first' principle?
2. Does it intend to ask Italy, when assessing its plan, to make changes to allow integrated or progressive measures on building envelopes and installations?

Submitted: 29.9.2026

Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(27 October 2026)

Italy submitted its Social Climate Plan in August, starting the five-month assessment process. The Commission sent its official observations on the 2 October 2026.

The observations touched on the choice to exclude thermal coating from the investments targeting badly performing social housing under public control ('ERPs') and vulnerable micro-enterprises to be shifted away from fossil fuels.

The Commission pointed to the principles of 'energy efficiency first' and 'technological neutrality'.

The plan aims at maximising the share of vulnerable households living in ERPs benefitting it, therefore minimising the impact of the Emission Trading System for road transport, buildings and additional sectors (ETS2) ⁽¹⁾.

The plan aims at improving the performance of around 90% of the ERPs with energy performance class F and G. Complementary instruments (e.g. 'Piano Casa') also cover in-depth renovation of low-performance buildings or dwellings in poor conditions that cannot be rented.

The choice to exclude thermal insulation from eligible investments pertains to the Member State, taking into account the available resources at its disposal, including but not exclusively the Social Climate Fund.

To avoid negative impacts on vulnerable households living in very inefficient buildings, the Commission asked Italy to ensure that the most cost-efficient options for improving the performance of eligible buildings are selected on a case-by-case basis, following a principle of technology neutrality.

¹ https://www.mase.gov.it/portale/documents/d/guest/2026_08_06_psclima-pdf, page 62.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2023/955 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 May 2023 establishing a Social Climate Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.