

Consultation on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive:
Statement of Pearle* - Live Performance Europe

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1. Introduction

With the public consultation the European Commission evaluates the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. The text requires Member State to set energy performance standards for buildings, to issue buildings with energy performance certificates and ensure that all new buildings meet the 'nearly zero energy' targets by the end of 2020.

Pearle* - Live Performance Europe supports the Union's objectives of its energy and climate change policy and welcomes the initiative to take stock of the text.

Pearle*- Live Performance Europe is the European association representing through its members about 7,000 organisations in the live performance. Pearle* is recognised by the European Commission as a European sectoral social partner, representing the employers in the European sectoral social dialogue committee live performance.

In the context of the discussion on the energy performance of buildings the main concern for the live performance sector is related to the construction of new theatres, concert halls or other live performance venues as well as the renovation of historical buildings and theatres.

This paper intends to address issues related to the public consultation which could not be explored within the scope of the online questionnaire.

2. Issues related to the energy performance of buildings in the live performance sector

- Pearle* is aware of the need in Member States to exploit the energy efficiency potential of existing buildings. Regarding energy-saving measures to be applied in the frame of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, it is of high importance for the live performance sector to ensure financial support of local, regional and national schemes and this for public bodies as well as for privately owned companies or venues.
- Pearle* would also like to emphasise the need to simplify access to existing funding. The live performance sector is characterised by SMEs and administrative burdens might create obstacles for smaller companies to apply for existing funding schemes.
- As to historical buildings, Article 5.2 (a) of the Directive gives the possibility to Member States to exempt officially protected buildings because of their special architectural or historical merit; it rightly points out that energy performance requirements would unacceptably alter their character or appearance.
Pearle* calls on the Commission and Member States to ensure the implementation of this Article which is of prime importance for historical theatres and other protected buildings of the live performance in Europe. Theatres are part of the European common identity and the European cultural heritage which is to be preserved for future generations. In this context, Pearle* welcomes the initiative of the EU to promote excellence in cultural heritage and to support research on energy efficiency in historical buildings.