

Following the 4th January deadline to transpose into national law the EU 2003 energy performance of buildings Directive, only 10 Member States have reported full or partial transposition. These are: Germany, Italy, Portugal, Austria, Denmark, Lithuania, Belgium, Latvia, Poland and the Slovak republic.

The Commission is expected to begin infringement proceedings at the end of this month against governments that do not notify the Commission of their transposition measures.

Even among the minority of countries that have transposed the Directive, several have indicated an intention to delay implementation by up to three years. One key element expected to cause delay in implementation is the central requirement to issue energy performance certificates for buildings above a minimum size.

Meanwhile, the Commission is currently consulting on plans to widen the scope of the Directive so as to cover smaller buildings below 1,000 square metres. The Commission is expected to make such proposals in an energy efficiency action plan due in mid-2006. An extended directive "could save the EU E8bn a year by 2010, rising to E14.5bn by 2015 while creating up to 530,000 new jobs", said European insulation manufacturers' association's Director General Horst Biedermann.

The Commission will make proposals in an energy efficiency action plan due in mid-2006. (See Green Paper "Doing More with Less", page 19:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/energy/efficiency/doc/2005_06_green_paper_book_en.pdf

See the buildings energy directive: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2003/l_001/l_00120030104en00650071.pdf

and Eurima press release: <http://www.environmentdaily.com/docs/60105a.doc>

(Information from ENDS/05/01/06)