

27 October 2004

## **Industry concern over new energy initiatives**

*Delegates at a seminar held on 14th October 2004 at BRE, voiced their concerns about the implementation of the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive ([click here](#) to read the Full Proceedings from the seminar).*

The Directive is designed to promote energy efficiency in new and existing buildings and so substantially reduce EU carbon emissions. Due to come into effect in the UK in January 2006, the new measures will be delivered primarily through the Building Regulations (Part L).

While many of the changes were welcomed, there was general agreement that some need a great deal more thought and clarification before they can be implemented. There was also concern that the government is expecting industry to do much of the development without supplying the resources and funding needed to achieve this.

Speaking on behalf of architects, Bill Gething of Fielden Clegg Bradley focused on the fact that the Directive takes a fundamentally different approach to current Building Regulations which served as a 'how to' manual. 'The Government is now leaving it up to the industry to come up with model solutions and then develop dissemination and training programmes. The professional institutions just don't have the financial and organisational resources to do this. Government assistance will be needed.'

Speakers from RICS and CIBSE highlighted the fact that unless a significant programme of recruitment and training is put in place, building control officers, building surveyors and building service engineers will be unable to implement many aspects of the Directive.

Delegates' comments were submitted to the ODPM before the consultation process came to an end on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Full proceedings from the seminar, including the delegates' comments, are available [here](#).

### **Editors' notes**

The UK Government recently published its proposals for amending Part L of the Building Regulations and for implementing the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD). To help the construction industry prepare its response to this important consultation document, ODPM and DIAG held a seminar on October 14<sup>th</sup> which reviewed the proposed changes and gathered delegates' views. The conference was organised by DIAG and the ODPM, and sponsored by BRE, CIBSE, RIBA and RICS.

[Proposals for amending Part L and Implementing the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive](#) has been posted in the Building Regulations section of the ODPM website: [www.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.odpm.gov.uk). The consultation period lasted from July 21 to October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2004.