



Letter of Support

February 5, 2025

Need for new EU Mandate to CEN to upgrade the set of Energy Performance of Buildings (EPB) standards to effectively support the practical implementation of the EPBD at national level

The European Union urgently requires a new mandate from the European Commission (EC) to the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) to upgrade the set of energy performance of buildings (EPB) standards. This upgrade is essential to align them with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) IV (2024) and subsequent iterations (policy framework foresight), ensuring a streamlined and homogeneous EU-wide implementation, including in EU candidate countries. The target is to complete the work by 2030 (important EPBD milestones).

Past mandates (M/343 and M/480) led to the creation and subsequent enhancement of EPB standards, culminating in their 2017-2018 updates (“EN ISO 52000 family” and more). However, the EPBD IV (2024) and an analysis of the current standards reveal the need for a third mandate. This mandate is critical to future-proof the EPB standards, making them more accessible, globally relevant, and aligned with evolving EU policy objectives.

The 2024 CEN/ISO Roadmap outlines key priorities for this upgrade: improving consistency in terms, definitions, and building boundaries; ensuring seamless data integration across standards; and aligning with life-cycle greenhouse gas (GHG) assessment methodologies. The work involves updating approximately 35 core EPB standards covering energy needs, indoor environment quality, system performances, building automation and control, as well as thermal and electrical storage and building’s flexible interactions with the wider energy systems incl. the grid. A major focus is to transition the standards from individually being “software proof” to a fully “software ready” set, enabling interoperability, integration with product and life-cycle assessment (LCA) data, and efficient connection to energy performance databases and national regulatory frameworks.

A key component of this effort is the development of an open-source EPB software kernel, designed as a tool to validate, demonstrate, and operationalize a fully coherent calculation methodology. This will facilitate EU-wide harmonization and allow customized interfaces that reflect national regulatory and climatic conditions.

While initiatives such as Horizon Europe and LIFE CET funding provide support, they cannot substitute for the structured and resource-intensive process of updating EPB standards under a dedicated mandate. The proposed enhancements require a centralized coordination, adequate resource, and collaboration among experts from multiple disciplines, national regulators, and stakeholders.

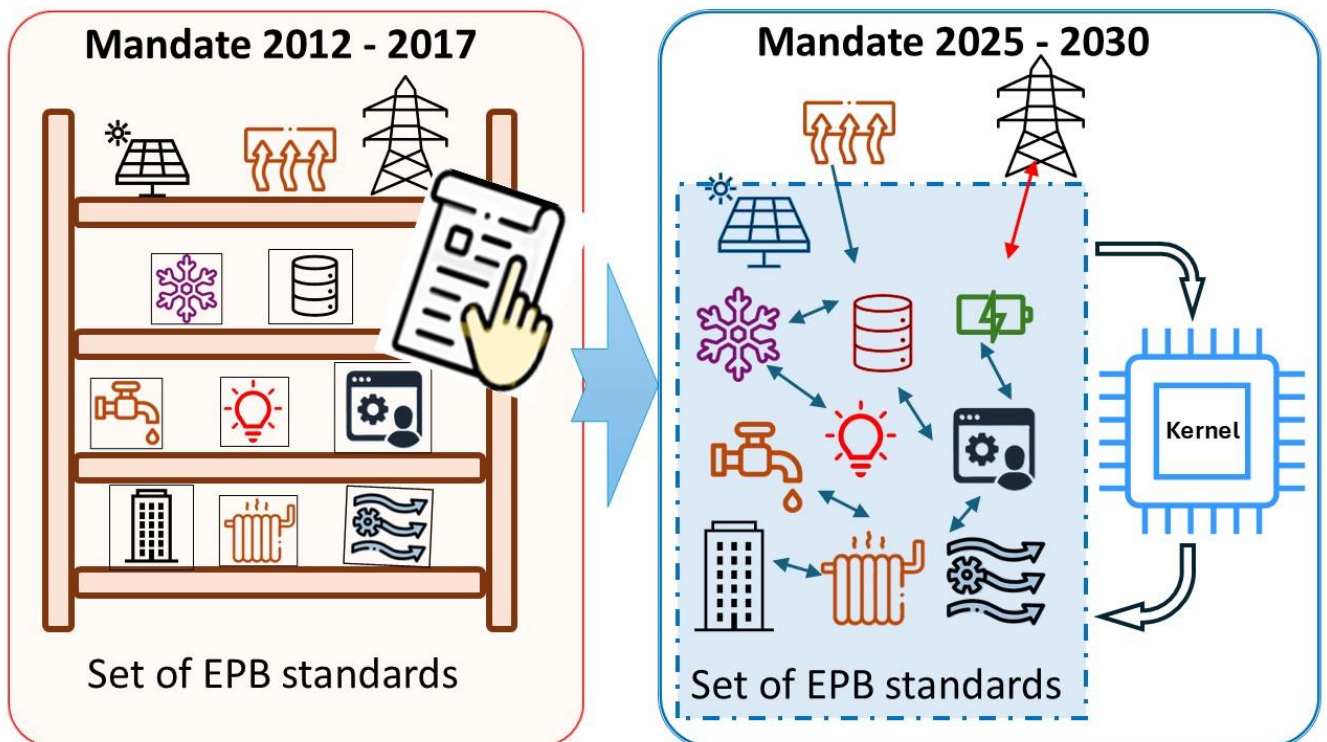
This coordinated effort is essential to maintain the quality, usability, and impact of the EPB standards, which play a fundamental role in achieving the EU’s climate goals and tackling challenges such as energy poverty and sustainability in the building sector. However, unlike in industrial sectors, stakeholders in the building sector are highly diffused and fragmented, making public authorities particularly responsible for driving these necessary actions. This role was recognized in previous EPBD implementation phases, leading to mandates M/343 and M/480.

Delivering these upgrades and the corresponding EPB software kernel will streamline efforts, significantly reduce redundancy and costs across Member States, and bring major benefits to European and national policymakers as well as the industry stakeholders, and the wider EPBD community of stakeholders.

Links:

- [History, incl. previous mandates](#)
- [CEN/ISO Roadmap, 2024](#)
- [Core set of EPB standards](#)
- [REHVA Journal editorial on need for 3rd mandate](#)
- [FAQs on relation between set of EPB standards and building energy simulation tools](#)

Illustration:



<p>Current set (developed 2012-2017) Each individual standard is transparent and validated with demo spreadsheet, interactions are described</p>	<p>Aim: (2025-2028/2030) Integrated set, transparent, software ready and validated as a set, software kernel available, harmonized but flexible</p>
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