CONCERTED ACTION
ENERGY EFFICIENCY
DIRECTIVE

7th Plenary Meeting CA EED Proceedings

December 2025

Contents

1 Opening Plenary Session

In the course of the seventh Plenary Meeting of the CA EED3 over 115 experts, policy makers and implementers gathered together in Paphos to discuss issues related to the implementation of the EED in Member States. The Plenary Meeting was designed to give Member States and Norway the opportunity to exchange experiences and learn from each other.

1.1 Presentations by Coordinator, keynote speakers, and CINEA

Opening speech by *Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy, Commerce and Industry*, Cyprus

Coordinator Opening presentation 7th PM, Charlie Panhuyzen, *RVO*

News from CINEA 7th PM, *CINEA*

2 Working Group Parallel Sessions

The Working Group Parallel Sessions of the 7th Plenary Meeting covered the following topics: Energy performance and waste heat utilisation in data centres (WG7.1), Public procurement (WG7.2), Increasing energy efficiency investment through new financing schemes including vulnerable consumers (WG7.3), and Energy audits and financial support tools (WG7.4).

2.1 Working Group 7.1 - Energy performance and waste heat utilisation in data centres (Art. 26 and 12)

Two sessions were dedicated to Article 12 and 26 of the EED and focused on data centres and waste heat utilisation. The first session began with a Mentimeter survey to assess how Member States are addressing the energy performance of data centres as well as the initial reporting period for data centres to the European database in accordance with Articles 12(1–3) of the EED. Half of the session participants identified opportunities for improving the energy performance of data centres and the other half was less certain. When asked about incentives for improvement, a variety of answers were given, including tax incentives, minimum energy performance standards to boost efficiency, support for waste heat reuse and heat networks, and the use of carbon pricing, labelling schemes and financial support to encourage the operation of sustainable data centres. Another question dealt with the initial insights or benefits from the first reporting period. The session participants mentioned that data centres face common challenges regarding compliance and the management of sensitive data. Benchmarking and cross-country comparisons were valued for improving oversight and supporting policymaking. While operators are less reluctant to report than expected, systematic monitoring is needed to ensure reliable, comparable data.

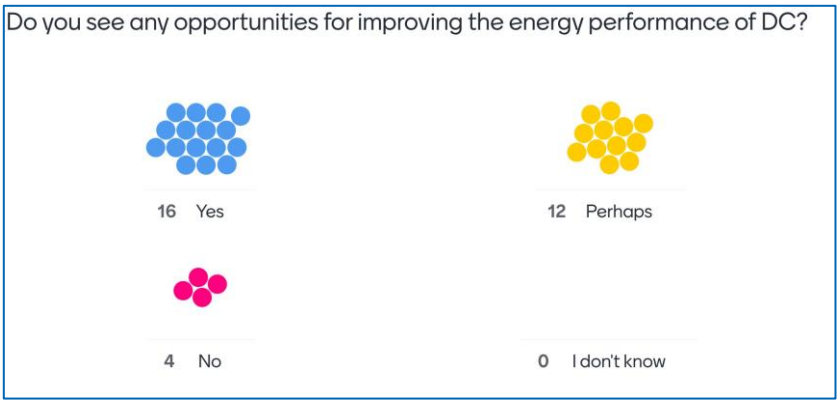


Figure 1 – WG7.1 Mentimeter results

The meeting continued with a presentation by the **Commission**, who outlined their priorities and upcoming strategies. The Electrification Action Plan and the Heating and Cooling Strategy, both of which are expected in Q1/2026. Two reports have recently been published: The first is on the energy performance of data centres in the first reporting period. The Commission highlighted that the first reporting period covered one third of the estimated 2.161 data centres in Europe (14 TWh or 0,5% of the EU's electricity demand) and showed the power usage effectiveness (PUE) benchmark for all reporting Member States. The Commission is preparing a report on the second reporting year and expects to publish it by the end of 2025. The second report on the next steps to promote the energy performance and sustainability of data centres was also presented. Additionally, the Commission will propose a delegated regulation to establish a rating scheme for data centres, which will be put to public consultation by the end of this year.

The session continued with a presentation by **Germany**, who outlined their experience with the energy performance of data centres. Germany identified more than 2,000 data centres with an installed IT power of over 100 kW, which had an energy demand of 20 TWh in 2024. The demand for IT capacity and energy is expected to rise exponentially. Germany also provided details on their Energy Efficiency Act (EnEfG), which sets minimum energy performance standards for existing data centres of a PUE of 1,5 from 2027 and 1,3 from 2030, as well as for new data centres starting operation after July 2026 with a PUE of 1,2 and 10% waste heat utilisation (increasing to 20% by 2028). Application of the minimum energy performance standards should save at least 2,5 TWh of electricity and 1 TWh of district heat till the year 2030. A public registry of all data centres is expected to be published by the end of 2025.

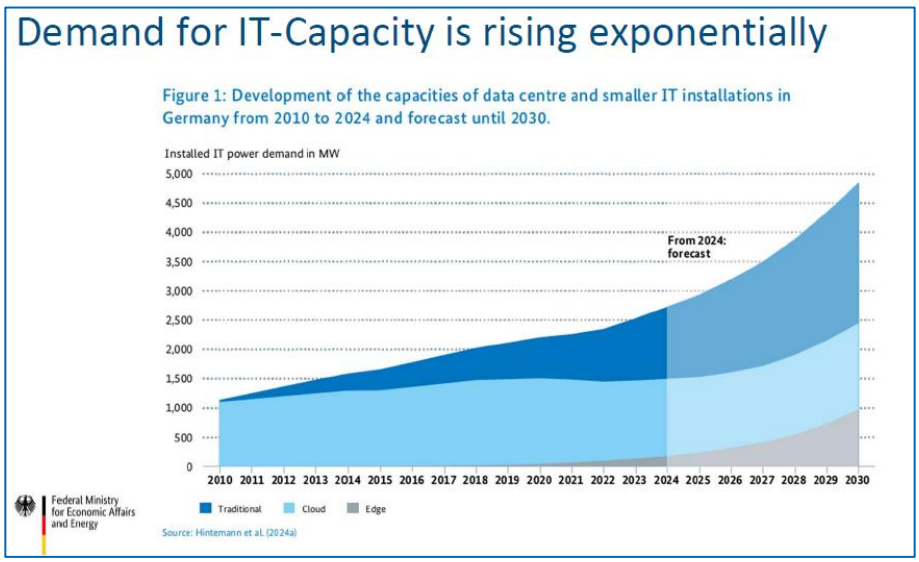


Figure 2 – WG7.1 (DE) presentation slide

Norway presented its experience with waste heat from data centres, which is referred to as surplus heat in its regulations. The requirements for a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) were presented, and two practical examples of CBAs were shared. Thus, no special methodologies have been developed, the purpose of the study is to demonstrate the established communication with the local stakeholders and to simply demonstrate whether the use of waste heat is technically and economically feasible.

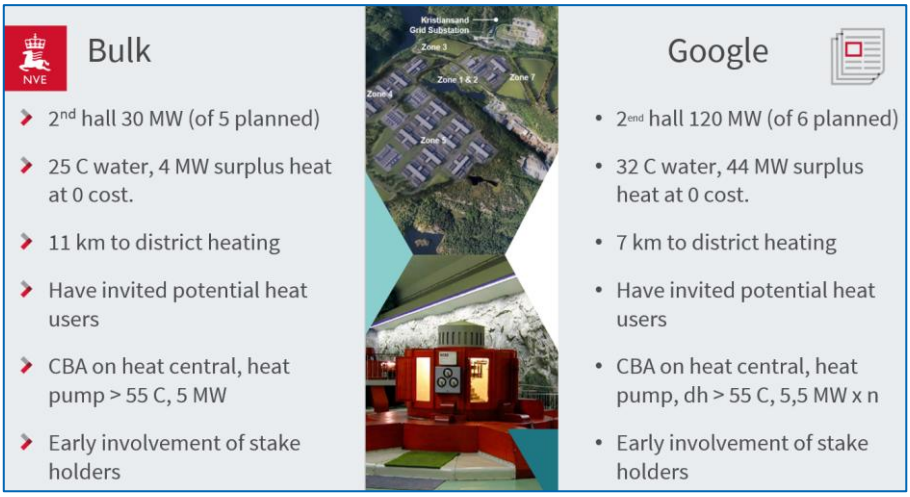


Figure 3 – WG7.1 (NO) presentation slide

The session continued with a presentation of the EU Life project **Support DHC**. The presenter went into detail on aspects of integrating waste heat utilisation from data centres into district heating, such as location, load characteristics, temperature levels etc. They also designed a special tool for assisting in contract negotiations between data centre and District Heating operators, which is available for free.

The session eventually concluded with group discussions and further questions via Mentimeter. The session participants expected an increase in the utilisation of waste heat from data centres in district heating systems. However, they identified the absence of nearby district heating networks and distance as key barriers to utilising waste heat from data centres. The majority of participants agreed that future urban planning could considered DC as energy suppliers, rather than just consumer.

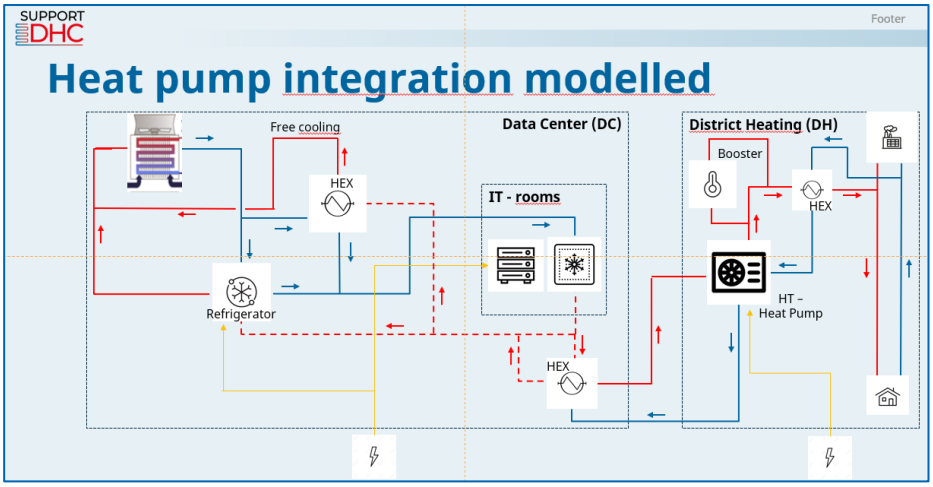


Figure 4 – WG7.1 (Support DHC) presentation slide

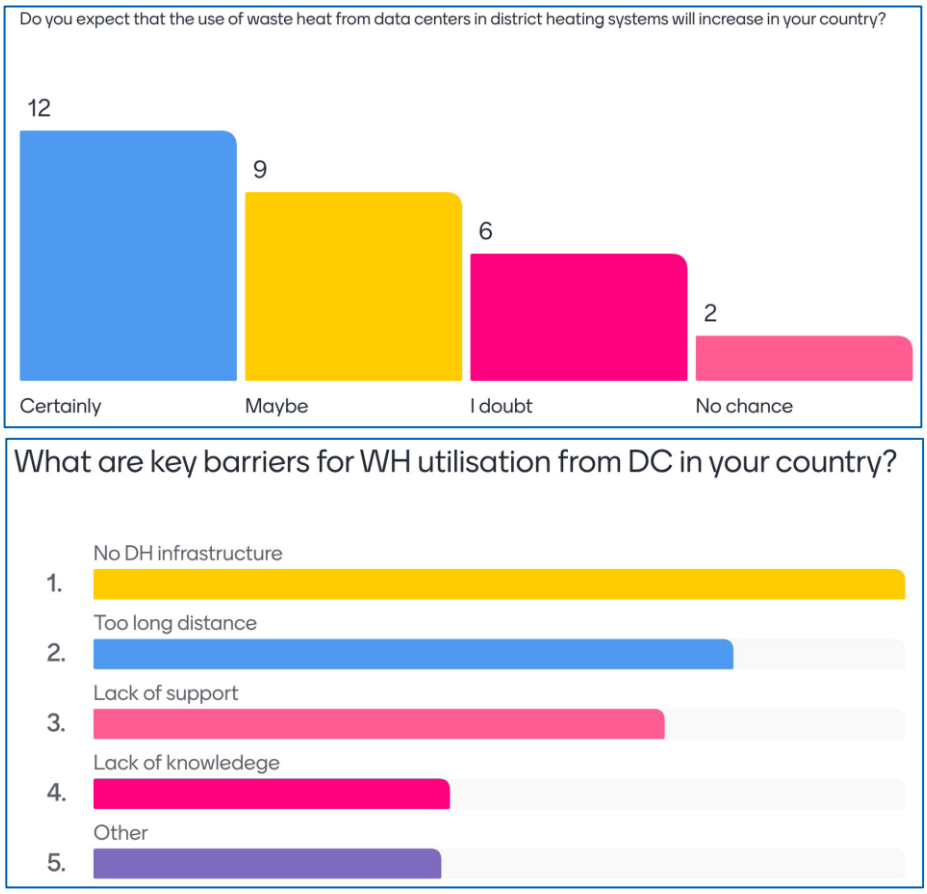


Figure 5 – WG7.1 further Mentimeter results

2.2 Working Group 7.2 - Public procurement (Art. 7)

The main objective of the Working Group was to overview and understand the requirements of Art. 7. It aimed to assess MS existing legislation/policies and supports related to the 5 procurement areas named in Art. 7. Specifically, procurement of high energy performing products, services, buildings, works and tires. The questionnaire and plenary sessions tried to identify and share good practices and learning to date in these 4 areas.

Session 1

The first session started with a summary of the main results of the Working Group questionnaire.

24 MSs completed the questionnaire:

- 75% have existing policies, legislation or support measures in place to ensure public bodies only procure **products, services, buildings** and **works** with high energy performance.
- 88% have existing policies, legislation or support measures in place to ensure public bodies only procure **products** with high energy performance.
- 71% have existing policies, legislation or support measures in place to ensure public bodies only procure **services** with high energy performance.
- 67% have existing policies, legislation or support measures in place to ensure public bodies only procure **buildings** with high energy performance.
- 50% have existing policies, legislation or support measures in place to ensure public bodies procure **works** with high energy performance.

It shows that most MSs have existing policies, legislation or support measures in place for products, but only half of the MSs have this in place for works. More detailed information on which MSs have which existing policies, legislation or support measures in place is in the WG7.2 report.

In preparation for the WG7.2 WG sessions a survey went out to the registered participants, to find out the level of expertise and knowledge of those attending. The responses showed that most participants had only a little expertise in Public Procurement and on Art. 7 of the recast EED.

This was followed by a presentation by DG ENER (European Commission) on the Art. 7 requirements. They provided some core slides which showed the requirements in a nutshell. They presented an excellent summary of what specifically is required under Art 7. The presentation also gave an overview of constituent high energy performance products, services, buildings, works and tires, and that the requirement for high energy performance for services and works applies to new products procured as part of these tenders. Exemptions (Art. 7.2) were identified and reporting requirements presented.

A representative on the Ecodesign Regulatory Committee and the Energy labelling Expert Group, gave an overview of EU product policy (related to EED Art. 7) in their presentation. This was followed by a presentation by SI, Ministry of Environment, Climate and Energy, on Article 7 in Slovenia and the LIFE project Care4Climate. This was followed by a table discussion workshop on **products** and **services**, to help MSs share good practices and ideas of how to apply what they may have learned in the session.

Session 2

This session built on session one by some MSs presentations and table discussions.

DK presented the Danish approach to fulfilling the requirements of Art. 7. AT presented the Austrian Action plan for sustainable public procurement. ES presented Green Public Procurement in Spain.

These presentations were followed by group discussions.

The outcomes of the round table discussions were that there are still some 'needs':

- MSs need to align multiple stakeholders to transpose Art. For example for many MSs this means consulting Depts of Finance (general public procurement policy), dept energy (products, buildings etc), and dept environment (GPP, wider sustainability etc)
- User friendly support for procurers; not just energy efficiency but all energy and climate related aspects build within existing procurement policies (i.e. GPP). Margareta alluded to plans to develop such networks and supports
- Guidance

Some other take aways:

Buildings:

- Needs further discussion, strong links to EPBD and Art. 6 of EED. With regard to defining NZEB

Services

- Requirement is to require only HEP products in the tender

Works:

- Requirement is to require only HEP products in the tender

- Needs more discussion. There are a few schemes in operation that would allow procurers to address Art 7 requirement, but they are not widespread currently

Tires:
- There is an existing labelling scheme and definition of HEP for tires

Wider sustainability:
- Most MSs plan to align Art 7 with GPP work and other existing schemes

Art 7 (2):
- Impact of Defence Omnibus will inform this work
- Defence exemption clear. Health and security forces less clear
- Art 7(2) only applies if government declares an emergency

2.3 Working Group 7.3 - Increasing EE investment through new financing schemes incl. vulnerable consumers (Art. 30)

EED Article 30 obliges the Member States to facilitate the development of private financial products as well as using public financing as leverage for private financing. The aim of this Joint Working Group between CA EED and CA EPBD has been to map out financing facilities in the Member States and to highlight good examples of different types of financing solutions, that can contribute to increased energy efficiency measures.

The topic was structured into three sessions during PM7:

- Session 1: Status of implementation in MSs and planning the way ahead
- Session 2: Workshop on Innovative Financial Mechanisms in use in the EU
- Session 3: The Commission and EIB on Mobilising Private Investments and new Guidance's

In the first session, highlights from the Working Group Document, based on a survey in June, were presented. The report reviews how MSs and Norway assess and implement national policy frameworks for financing energy efficiency, including building renovations. In the report we see that MSs acknowledge the presence of national policy frameworks supporting both energy efficiency and renovation, but the maturity and effectiveness of these frameworks vary.

Several key challenges are revealed in the compilation of the answers. These include institutional fragmentation, insufficient public funding, low public awareness, and limited support for vulnerable consumers. Most MSs still rely heavily on grants, though interest is growing in more complex tools such as public guarantees, favourable loans, on-bill financing, and blended financing solutions. When it comes to vulnerable groups, the majority of MSs have defined vulnerable groups and implemented targeted measures for them in the context of energy poverty and efficiency.

The second session began with five short presentations from Latvia, Greece, Germany, Czech Republic and the Netherlands on different financing mechanisms in place in EU – followed by a workshop around nine more examples from other countries presented by posters.

These were:

- Wohnschirm Energy, Austria
- Sustainable Energy Renovation of the Housing Stock, Bulgaria
- My home II, Greece
- Green Transition Fund, Porvoo, Finland
- Energy efficiency programme for multi-apartment buildings, Latvia
- 0% loan, the Netherlands
- ELENA MZBM-TBS ONE-STOP-SHOP, Poland
- Energy Efficiency Finance Facility for Residential Buildings, Poland
- Kommuninvest Green Financing Programme – Green bonds, Sweden

The discussions during Session 2 gave a lot of new insights, such as the need to combine relief measures with advice on energy savings and to actively involve the private banking sector.

Figure 6 - Some key findings from WG7.3 workshop

In Session 3 the Commission reported on its coming Energy Efficiency support Package composed of a report to co-legislators and two pieces of guidance – the first on unlocking private investments and the second on one-stop shops services. Some take-home messages from the Commission included:

- Financial instruments can leverage higher levels of private investments
- Standardised data and reporting on energy efficiency are lacking
- Main areas of action: activate demand, improve offer and de-risk investments
- Encourage a strategic reflection on role of OSS in delivering on energy efficiency objectives,

In the session we also got an update on the European Energy Efficiency Financing Coalition – until today all MSs have joined the coalition, and 14 National Hubs have been established. The session had a special focus on Finland and how this MS has set up their national hub.

In the WG report, MSs identified lack of technical knowledge and limited access to financing as two main barriers to scaling up energy efficiency investments. This was also the starting point for the last speaker in the session from EIB. The Elena facility, which provides technical assistance grants for public and private entities, is a mechanism that MSs could use to overcome these barriers.

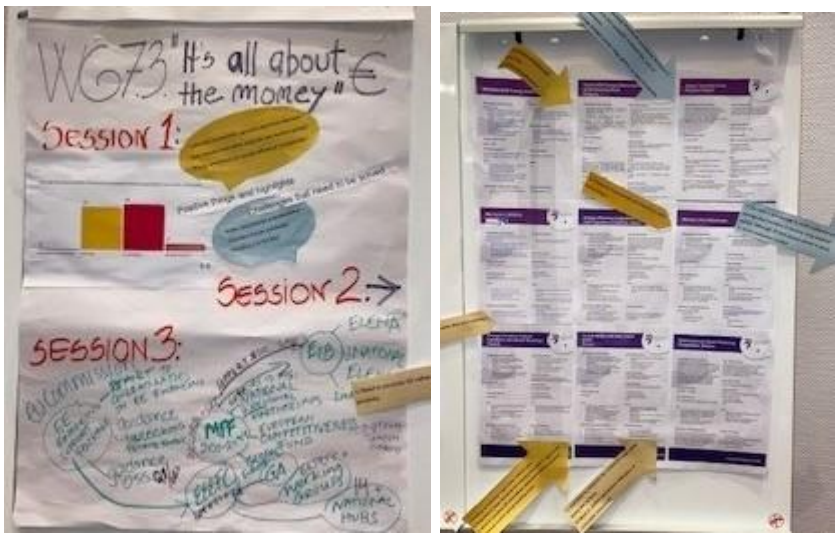


Figure 7 – WG7.3 posters

2.4 Working Group 7.4 - Energy audits and financial support tools (Art. 11 and 30)

Session 1: Framework and EU-level Initiatives

The **first session** opened with the presentation of the WG7.4 report, which synthesised the results of a structured questionnaire circulated to Member States on the integration of Articles 11 (energy audits) and 30 (mobilising finance) of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED). The report highlighted key findings related to audit-finance linkages, auditor qualifications, the role of financial institutions, and policy coherence. The analysis underscored the limited use of audit outputs in financing decisions, the low level of institutional coordination, and a general lack of financial maturity in energy audit practices. It also identified gaps in training, documentation standards, and feedback mechanisms.

Next, **DG ENER** delivered a keynote titled *"Energy Audits and Financial Support Tools".* They discussed current and forthcoming EU-level policy developments aimed at improving the quality and usability of audit outputs. The presentation stressed the strategic importance of aligning technical audits with financing schemes and improving audit documentation to support investment planning. They also underlined the Commission's role in issuing guidance and promoting capacity-building through EU programmes.

Following this, the **Netherlands Enterprise Agency** presented a summary of the **CA EED study visit on Article 11 in The Hague**, which brought together MSs for an in-depth exchange on energy audit implementation. They highlighted practical experiences, the Dutch national framework, and the value of peer learning. The presentation emphasised the benefits of site visits for understanding operational realities, exploring data-collection practices, and assessing challenges in ensuring audit quality.

ENEA, Italy presented *"Aligning Energy Audit Outputs with Financing Pathways in Italy."* They described Italy's strong regulatory framework for energy audits, which mandates structured reporting, the use of key performance indicators (KPIs) and indicators for energy efficiency measures. However, they noted that despite this framework, there remains a limited formal link between energy audits and financing mechanisms. The results on green finance options for SMEs, as investigated by the Italian Banking Association (ABI) Research Centre within the REFINEE project, were presented. A sectoral case study in the plastics industry revealed that, while incentives were available, they were rarely considered in the business plans included in the energy audits for energy efficiency measures. The presentation also showcased national initiatives, such as the LEAPto11 National Observatory, which fosters networking and peer learning among stakeholders.

Energy and Water Agency, Malta followed with a presentation titled *"From Audit to Investment: Aligning Technical Outputs with Financial Uptake."* They introduced Malta's comprehensive guidance materials for energy auditors, including practical templates to enhance alignment between audit reports and funding applications. The benefits of using standardised audit summary templates were highlighted, particularly for improving transparency, audit quality, and consistency with financing programmes. Malta also discussed how state-led data collection supports the design of targeted support schemes and continuous policy improvement.

Shared Observations from both presentations included the importance of harmonising audit and finance documentation, building quality assurance mechanisms, and fostering stronger public-private coordination. Both presenters emphasised the need to embed financial readiness directly into technical auditing procedures to enhance the investment value of audits.

These contributions provided a structured and practical entry point into the session, grounding the following Member State presentations in both strategic objectives and on-the-ground experiences.

Session 2: From Audit to Investment: Aligning Technical Outputs with Financial Uptake

The second session of WG7.4 focused on translating strategic insights into practical mechanisms for connecting energy audits with financing pathways. This interactive part of the meeting was designed to draw on participants' expertise and experience through a combination of real-time survey responses and group discussions.

The session opened with a **live Mentimeter survey** to capture immediate expert feedback on core implementation challenges under Articles 11 and 30 of the EED. The ten-question survey addressed issues such as:

- auditor capacity and financial literacy,
- inter-ministerial and EU-national coordination,

- institutional feedback mechanisms,
- the role of de-risking instruments, and
- the social equity dimensions of audit-based financing.

The results closely mirrored the WG7.4 report's conclusions. Participants confirmed persistent gaps in linking audits with financial instruments, limited involvement of financial institutions, and the lack of implementation feedback loops. Respondents also identified vulnerable groups—particularly SMEs and low-income households—as the most disadvantaged when accessing finance. The survey strengthened the evidence base for WG7.4's conclusions, providing triangulation among national reports, field-level practice, and stakeholder perspectives.

Following the Mentimeter exercise, participants took part in **two parallel workshops**, each addressing a critical theme identified during the analysis.

Workshop 1 focused on *Audit-Finance Integration*. Participants discussed the need to standardise audit outputs (e.g., EN 16247-based templates) to better align with the documentation requirements of financial institutions. Several attendees stressed that technical audits often lack the investment-relevant data needed to support funding applications. The group also identified opportunities for leveraging public procurement rules and national support schemes to embed audit-based eligibility or bonus scoring.

Workshop 2 addressed *Capacity Building and Institutional Coordination*. This group explored ways to improve financial literacy among auditors and to enhance coordination between ministries, energy agencies, and funding bodies. The discussion highlighted the importance of joint training platforms involving both technical and financial actors. The potential role of EU programmes (e.g. LIFE, Horizon Europe) in harmonising capacity-building approaches across MSs was also discussed, while acknowledging that national differences must be respected.

Both workshops generated actionable insights and confirmed that progress depends not only on technical improvements but also on institutional reform, policy coherence, and professional development. Participants welcomed the opportunity to exchange ideas in a collaborative setting and expressed strong interest in continued peer learning, including future thematic sessions under the CA EED umbrella.

Conclusion

The two WG7.4 sessions offered a comprehensive overview of the challenges and opportunities in aligning technical energy audits (Article 11) with financial instruments (Article 30). The presentations and discussions confirmed that, while audit obligations are well established across MSs, their integration with financing mechanisms remains weak and inconsistent. MSs and experts emphasised the need for standardised audit outputs, improved financial literacy among auditors, and stronger institutional coordination.

Overall, the sessions reinforced the urgency of developing coherent national strategies, supported by EU-level coordination, to ensure that energy audits serve not only as compliance tools but also as catalysts for investment in energy efficiency.

3 Information Parallel Sessions

Information sessions were organised to brief participants about developments on specific topics: Art. 4 and 8 analysis and progress update (INFO7.5) and CINEA/Life projects: Energy poverty – solutions, services and tools (INFO7.6)

3.1 Info session 7.5 - Art. 4 and 8 analysis and progress update

The Members States submitted their Integrated National Energy and Climate Progress reports (NECPR) earlier this year, as they were due by 15 March 2025. The European Commission needed to assess the progress and policy responses by 31 October 2025 in the pursuit of the Union’s energy efficiency and end-use energy savings targets.

In addition, the Commission needed to submit an update on the progress to the European Parliament and the Council the State of the Energy Union as part of the report referred to in Article 35 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999.

The aim of the session was to obtain comprehensive input from the Commission on its assessment related to the implementation of Articles 4 and 8 of the recast Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), and the achievement of the corresponding contributions and targets. The session also sought to gather information on the Commission's possible plans for when progress is considered insufficient.

The core of the session was a presentation by DG ENER (European Commission.) While the final analysis of the NECPRs is still ongoing, the overall view of the implementation situation is already quite comprehensive. The main results presented were as follows:

- Although the ambition gap was reduced compared with the updated NECPs of June 2024, primary energy consumption (PEC) remains 47.3 Mtoe above the target of 992.5 Mtoe, and final energy consumption (FEC) 31.1 Mtoe above the target of 763 Mtoe. For FEC, this corresponds to an 8.1% reduction compared with the reduction target of 11.7% between 2020 and 2030.

- Regarding Article 8 objectives, 20 Member States are progressing above the required 0.8% savings rate, while two Member States have not achieved it, and information is missing from five Member States. Cross-cutting measures, such as the energy saving obligation and energy taxation, dominate the savings, representing a 67% share.

DG ENER also provided a brief summary of the presentation delivered in the Bonus Session on 23rd October.

The Commission has prepared a new template for the notification of policies and measures under Article 8(11) to accommodate the changes introduced in the EED recast compared with the previous framework. The template is ready and will shortly be disseminated to the Member States through the EED Expert Group. The notification will take place in the NECPRs of March 2027.

Participants were polled during the session to collect their current views on how challenging they consider the PEC and FEC contributions and the Article 8 target (Figure 9 below). The results were compared with those of the Domain 1 survey conducted in January 2024 (Figure 8 below). The 2024 survey included one response per country, while the poll during the session may include multiple responses per country. The poll revealed that the majority of participants considered the PEC and FEC contribution, and the Art. 8 obligation too challenging to achieve (15, 18 and 12 responses, respectively). Some participants answered that the PEC and FEC contribution, and the Art. 8 obligation seems challenging to achieve (7, 6 and 6 respectively) and a minority considered the goals challenging, but achievable (4, 0 and 6, respectively). Noteworthy is that none of the participants considered the goals achievable without major challenges. As in January 2024, participants considered the Article 8 obligation somewhat easier to achieve than the PEC and FEC contributions.

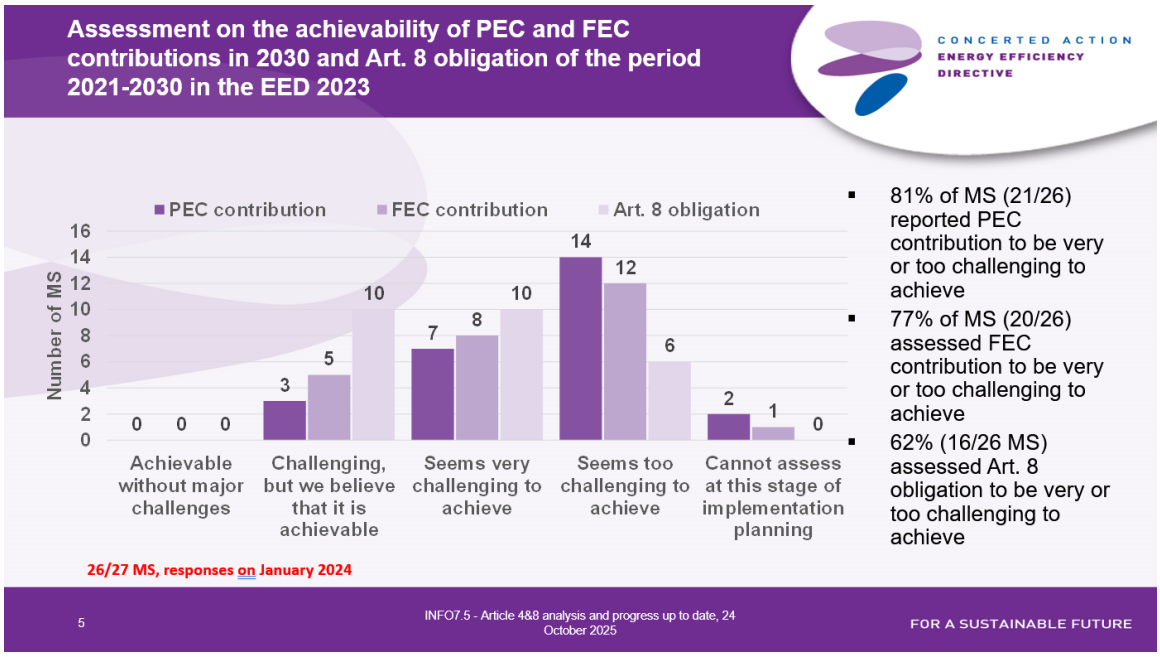


Figure 8 - Survey on the achievability of PEC and FEC contributions and Art. 8 obligation, January 2024

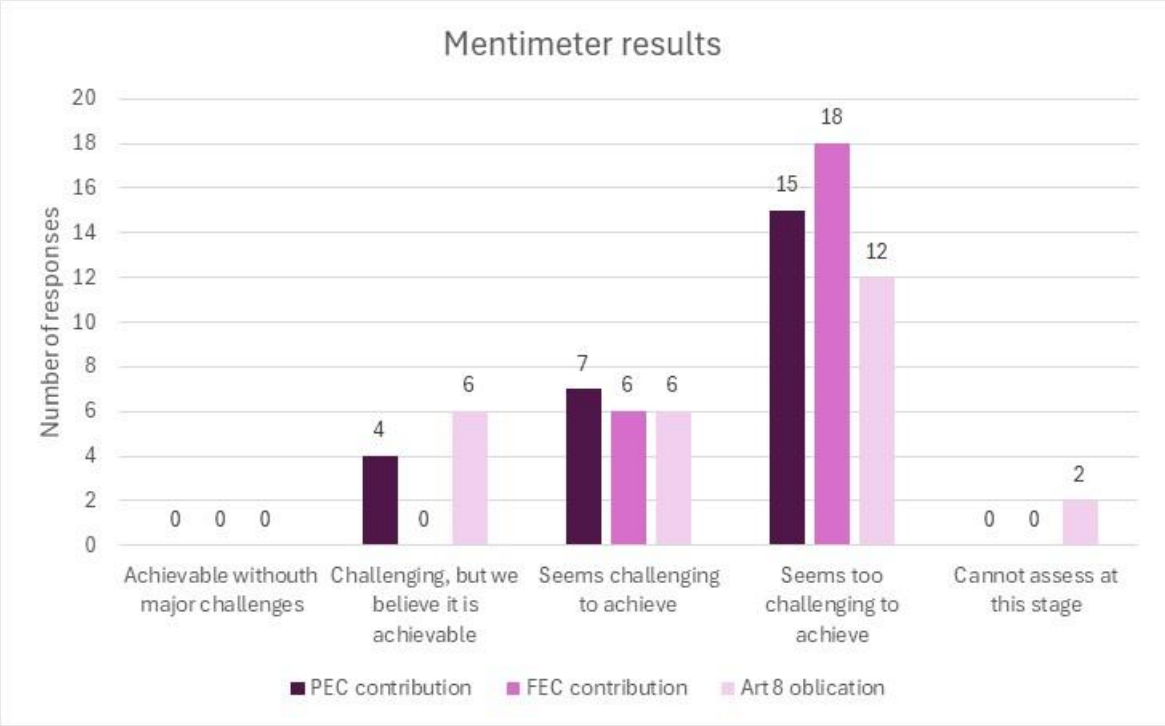


Figure 9 - Poll on the achievability of PEC and FEC contributions and Art. 8 obligation, INFO Session PM07

The Q&A session was conducted both in person and anonymously through Menti. Some participants considered the targets oversized and asked whether they could be reconsidered during the evaluation of the EED in 2027 or discussed at the forthcoming Energy Action Forum. Questions were also raised about whether the Commission intents to act against individual countries if progress is deemed insufficient. One of the points raised concerned the need to discuss vulnerability under Article 8(3), which is a proposed topic for Domain 1 at the PM08 meeting in Dublin in March 2026.

Participants were also polled to gather information on the communication of energy efficiency and energy savings results. Only three countries responded, and all of them (BG, NL, and one anonymous respondent) reported publishing annual progress reports.

The INFO7.5 session, chaired by Ms Lea Gynther (FI), was well attended. Approximately 30 participants were present, representing various ministries, energy agencies, energy authorities, as well as the European Commission and CINEA.

3.2 Info session 7.6 – CINEA/Life projects: Energy poverty – solutions, services and tools (Art. 8-10, 24 & 30)

CINEA provided background to the Info 7.6 session and referred to the definition of energy poverty in the EED. The aim of the session was to showcase diverse approaches and solutions addressing the issue of energy poverty in different MS and neighbourhoods, supporting the implementation of the articles (4-8, 24, 30). The three LIFE-funded projects (ComACTIVATE, ASSERT and BIRTUOSS) presented in the session cover different geographical areas such as a One-Stop-Shops (OSS) approach for home renovation in three Eastern European countries (BG, HU LT) and a OSS in a Western European Countries (ES) as well as diverse target groups and approaches, namely, the development of energy sufficiency roadmaps for multi-apartment buildings, the nexus of people with physical disabilities and energy poverty and the creation of a network of OSS.

As a first example, Habitat for Humanity presented the project ComACTIVATE, which is enabling community action for energy sufficiency in BG, HU and LT. ComACTIVATE approaches the issue of energy poverty from a building-level perspective. The project targets three different European regions sharing a similar historical development and the large privatization of the housing stock in the 1990s. Around 60% of people in Central and Eastern Europe live in Multi-Family Apartment Buildings (MFABs). Social, technical, legislative, and financial challenges to renovate such buildings are complex, especially related to the integration of renewable energies. Relevant data was collected

identifying under-renovated buildings and neighbourhoods in the three countries, understanding their barriers and engaging their representatives in the renovation process. Resources Centres are established in selected neighbourhoods as bridges to identify, engage, and empower communities that have not benefited from renovation. Those are offering trusted guidance, practical tools, financial support, and community empowerment for more affordable and more sustainable homes. Usually, the Resources Centers are set up as part of the municipality office, in the city centre for easy access. The project also focusses on homeowners, and homeowner associations as well as building managers to provide specific training, awareness raising and capacity building related to home renovation.

The second example, the project ASSERT, is tackling energy poverty linked to the group of people with physical disabilities. The project's approach was showcased in two presentations, first Marina Varvesi (AISFOR) explained in a pre-recorded presentation objectives and the general approach. The Cyprus Energy Agency shared the findings from the implementation of the ASSERT approach in Cyprus. The objective of the project is to provide a large-scale multi-actor training and mentorship programme to assist people with physical impairments in energy poverty. The approach was developed based on the evidence that people with health issues are more at risk of being or failing into energy poverty. This group also has higher energy needs due to their electrical equipment, higher or lower temperature needs, and they spend more time at their home. The project aims to identify measures addressing the needs of people with physical disabilities, to interrupt the vicious circle of aggravating health conditions because of unhealthy household conditions due to energy poverty. As a solution, training courses are offered to policymakers, intermediaries, and affected persons to provide essential knowledge and skills to effectively address and mitigate energy poverty through energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions. A mentorship programme was launched pairing municipalities with intermediary organisations in five MS (FR, ES, EL, IT, CY)

The Cyprus Energy Agency presented the findings from working with the focus group of people with disabilities in Cyprus. As part of the ASSERT project, they visited 100 households of people with disabilities to understand structural and technical obstacles. Among the main structural barriers these households are facing, are the issues of affordability and accessibility of housing options. In addition, grants require initial private investment which in many cases is not available to the households, thus limiting their access to this funding.

Many technical barriers specific to the disabilities were identified such a touch screen for people with visual disabilities, inabilities to control energy related variables devices due to height or other obstacles such as windows or light. For the mentorship programme in Cyprus five municipalities are paired with intermediaries offering training courses for staff of both entities. The Cyprus Energy Agency offers a package of technical assistance to people with disabilities.

In the third part of the session, the Director of Neighbourhood Regeneration and Urban Agenda from the Basque country presented the OPENGELA service, an OSS approach to support and promote the involvement of property owners' communities and neighbourhood associations in the home renovation. The OPENGELA approach foresees services in a non-institutional space to stay connected to the neighbourhood. The LIFE funded project BIRTUOSS builds on previous experience of building a support system for home renovation in multi-apartment homes (HIROS4ALL) and is testing the scaling of the OPENGELA approach in the Basque country. Based on an inventory of urban areas in the Basque country, applying demographic, sociological, socioeconomic, building-related and urban- and energy-related indicators, 2011 vulnerable urban areas were identified. The Basque government and municipalities provide technical assistance and distribute grants to support the OPENGELA office and services, which then deals with financial institutions and the loans required for the home renovation as well as the construction sector professionals. The approach shows real impacts such as the regeneration of 25 selected vulnerable neighbourhoods overcoming persistent barriers in home renovation such as fragmented ownership, lack of awareness about the benefits of energy efficiency and a lack of trust in the companies and professionals.

After the presentations, the floor was open for participants to exchange with the project teams. As a common scheme throughout the presentations and the discussions, trusted relationship between the OSS and the people of the neighbourhoods is a key success factor for the implementation of EE measures. With regards to engaging with neighbourhoods and households, the shared experience is that the topic energy efficiency in many cases does not qualify as a door- opener for the first contacts with households. Vulnerable households do often have other concerns to manage their daily lives, while measures on Energy Efficiency only become relevant at a later stage of a solution development process related to the apartment/building renovation.

4 Other Parallel sessions

4.1 Open Space session: Brainstorm - Joint Working Group CA RES/EPBD/EED on Energy Communities

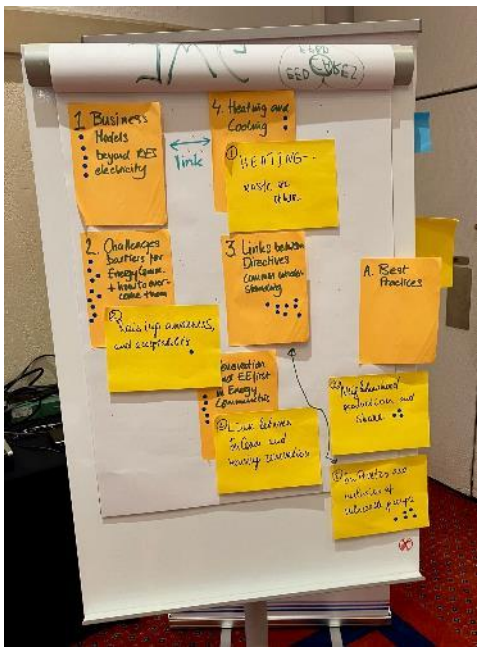
An Info session was organised to get input for a Joint Working Group (JWG) of CA EED, CA EPBD and CA RES on the topic of Energy Communities. 12 persons attended the session, of which 2 from CA RES and 1 from CA EPBD. Presentations from the 3 Concerted Actions provided an introduction to the topic, after which 2 groups brainstormed on topics to be dealt with by the JWG. The suggestions were clustered and ranked by voting, noting that best practices can be used in any case; see

Textbox 1.

1. **Challenges and barriers for energy communities and how to overcome them (11 votes)**
   - Raising awareness and acceptability
   - Individual heating solutions versus central heating solutions
   - Legislative, calculation methods, taxes
   - Over the year balances
   - Issues with suppliers
2. **Links between Directives (EED, EPBD, RED) concerning energy communities (creating a common understanding) (8 votes)**
   - Aggregation of projects, access to financing
   - ZEB in cities
   - Fossil fuel exclusion from multi-apartment buildings
   - Practical examples between Energy Communities and the implementation of energy efficiency measures for home owners
   - Discussion and agree on definition and scope
   - The role of Energy Communities in promoting energy efficiency and savings (EED Art. 8)
   - Energy Communities and solar strategy (EPBD Art. 10)
3. **Business models beyond RES electricity (5 votes)**
   - Energy Communities acting as an ESCO for the members
4. **Renovation and Energy Efficiency first (5 votes)**
   - Link between Energy Communities and housing renovation
   - Citizen led renovation; economies of scale
5. **Energy poverty and inclusion of vulnerable groups (5 votes)**
6. **Neighborhood production and share (3 votes)**
7. **Heating and cooling (2 votes)**
   - Waste heat use in Energy Communities
   - Local planning; Energy Communities provide services to local authorities (PPAs <-> TPAs)
   - Efficient district heating solutions for large communities for ZEB compliance

Best practices

- How MS have promoted Energy Communities



Textbox 1 Results of the brainstorm

The session was concluded with a proposal for next steps; see Figur0. It was agreed that CA RES will take the lead and the other CAs will inform CA RES in the coming weeks about their participants.

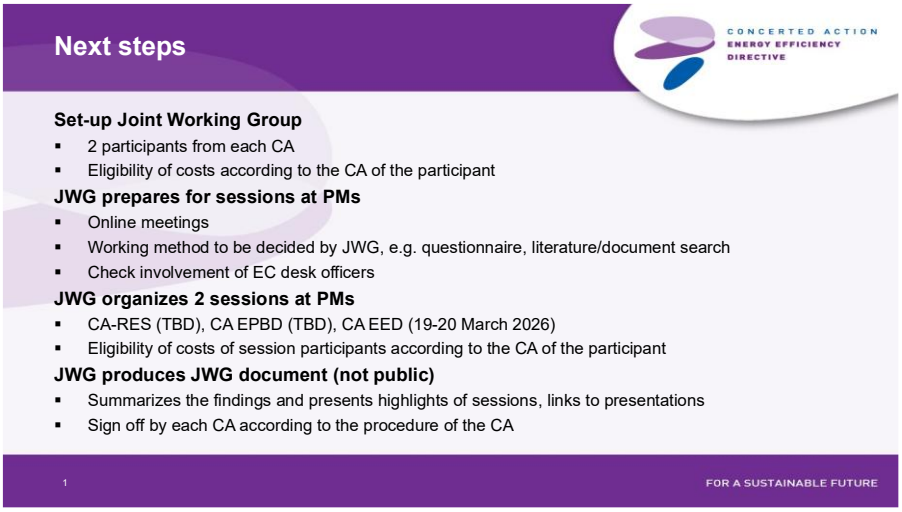


Figure 10 – Open Space session - next steps

5 Bonus session

In the bonus session, the Commission presented in more detail the “new impetus for the energy efficiency” that was presented by Commissioner Joergensen in June 2025.

The session was very well attended, and participants expressed their interest to get access and use all this information and data to inform their national policies. Among the first six deliverables, the Commission focused on the first: “**Setting up an Efficiency Action Forum 2030 with EU countries**”.

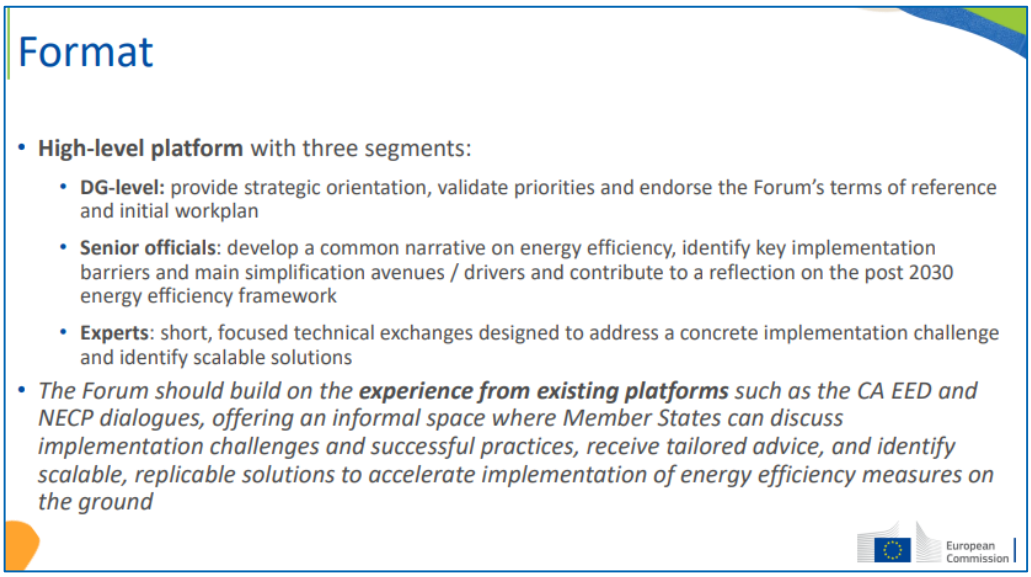


Figure 11 – Bonus session presentation slide (format)

A representative presented the Commission’s ideas on the objectives, format, timeline and topics of the Forum and asked the Member States for their opinions and contribution in setting up an agenda that will help them with the transposition and implementation of the EED.

The topics proposed include:

- Discuss the progress of the Energy Efficiency Roadmap
- Effective implementation of the energy efficiency first (EE1st) principle

- Effective financial instruments and financing practices to foster the EU energy services market
- Buildings and heating and cooling sectors, including relevant barriers to increase renovation rates and to tap into the waste heat recovery potential

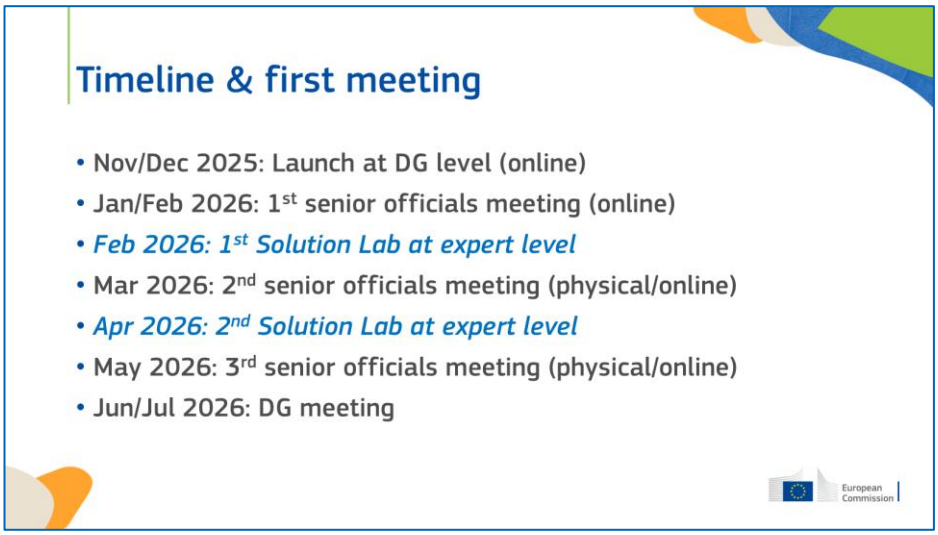


Figure 12 – Bonus session presentation slide (timeline & first meeting)

In the discussion that followed, participants asked to better understand the aim of such a Forum and whether it would translate to any new obligations. The Commission reassured Member States that the Forum aims to create new enabling conditions and a better framework for those that wish to do more, but in no case that would be translated to increased targets or added obligations.

The discussion touched on possible additional topics that Member States would like to see included in the Forum. The Commission closed by inviting Member States to engage actively in the creation of the Forum, already now if there are remarks and/or ideas to be included in the topics under discussion.

6 Closing Plenary Session

The Closing Plenary Session provided participants with an overview of the discussions and results of the Working Group sessions and included a presentation from the CA EED Coordinator as well as an invitation to the next Plenary Meeting.

Conclusions presentation WG7.1 – Energy performance and waste heat utilisation in data centres, Stane Merše, *Jožef Stefan Institute* and Stefan Katzmann, *E-Control*

Conclusions presentation WG7.2 – Public procurement, Alan Ryan, *SEAI*

Conclusions presentation WG7.3 – MS Actions to increase investments in energy efficiency through new innovative financing schemes, Annika Nilsson, *Swedish Energy Agency*

Conclusions presentation WG7.4 - Audit-to-Finance Integration Bridging Technical and Financial Dimensions: From Article 11 to 30, Tadeusz Skoczkowski, *The Warsaw University of Technology*

CA EED Coordinator Closing presentation 7th PM, Charlie Panhuyzen, *RVO*

Invitation to Dublin, *Department of Climate, Energy, and the Environment*

7 Presentations

A number of presentations provided participants with valuable insights into Member States' EED implementations as well as examples from EU projects and information from the European Commission. All presentations are available on the CA EED website.

Working Group 7.1

Working Group presentation 7.1 - Mentimeter results, Stefan Katzman and Stane Merše, *E-Control and Jožef Stefan Institute*

Working Group presentation 7.1 - Introduction, Stefan Katzman and Stane Merše, *E-Control and Jožef Stefan Institute*

Fit for 55 - DG ENER, *DG ENER – European Commission*

Germany's experiences with the energy performance of data centres - Germany, *Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy*

From waste to surplus heat - Norway, *NVE*

Techno-economics of the integration of waste heat into district heating - support DHC, *e-think energy research*

Working Group 7.2

Austrian Action Plan for Sustainable Public Procurement - Austria, *Federal Ministry Economy, Energy and Tourism*

Fit for 55 - EED Recast Art. 7 Energy Efficiency Public Procurement - European Commission, *DG ENER – European Commission*

EED Art. 7 - Denmark, *Danish Energy Agency*

Green Public Procurement - Spain, *Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge*

Green Public Procurement in Slovenia, *Ministry for environment, climate and energy*

EED Art. 7 and EU Product Policy - Netherlands, *RVO*

Working Group 7.3

Working Group presentation 7.3 - Actions to increase investments in EE through financing - *ENEA* and *Ministry of Climate and Energy of Latvia*

On-bill Financing in Latvia - Latvia, *Ministry of Climate and Energy of Republic of Latvia – public saved*

0% Loan – Netherlands, *RVO*

Electra and Exiconomo programs - Greece, *CRES*

Cooperation Between the State and the Financial Sector in Financing Household Energy Savings - Czech Republic, *Ministry of Industry and Trade*

Heat transition in the building sector: § 35c Einkommensteuergesetz - Germany, *Federal Energy Efficiency Center*

Working Group presentation 7.3 - The European Energy Efficiency Financing Coalition and the National Hubs, *Motiva* and *ENEA*

EED Concerted Action Energy Efficiency Financing - European Commission, *DG ENER - European Commission – Public saved in image*

Elena facility - European Investment Bank, *EIB*

Working Group 7.4

Working Group presentation 7.4 - Audit to Finance Integration Bridging Technical and Financial Dimensions: From Article 11 to 30, *The Warsaw University of Technology, Swedish Energy Agency, and MEKH*

Reflection Study Visit - Energy Saving in the Netherlands - Netherlands, *Ministry of Climate and Green Growth*

Aligning energy audit outputs with financing pathways in Italy - Italy, *ENEA*

From Audit to Investment: Aligning Technical Outputs with Financial Uptake - Malta, The *Energy & Water Agency*

Energy Audits and Financial Support Tools - European Commission, *DG ENER – European Commission*

Info session 7.5

INFO session 7.5 presentation - Art. 4 & 8 analysis and progress, Lea Gynther, *Motiva*

EED recast Articles 4 and 8 analysis and progress update - European Commission DG ENER, Nikolaos Kontinakis, *DG ENER – European Commission*

Info session 7.6

INFO session presentation 7.6: Energy poverty – solutions, services and tools, *CINEA – European Commission*

Findings from field work and focus groups with people with disabilities - ASSERT, *Cyprus Energy Agency*

District approach for home renovation - Opengela (BIRTUOSS), *Basque Government*

Energy poverty - ASSERT project (AISFOR)

Enabling Community Action for Energy Sufficiency in Bulgaria, Hungary and Lithuania – ComActivate project, *Habitat for Humanity International*

Open Space – Brainstorm - Joint Working Group CA RES/EPBD/EED on Energy Communities

Open Space Presentation - Joint WG on Energy Communities - CA EED, *RVO*

Open Space Presentation - Net Zero Energy Districts - CA EPBD, *Danish Energy Agency*

Open Space Presentation - Energy Communities in the EU - CA RES, *CRES*

Bonus Session

New impetus for energy efficiency, *DG ENER – European Commission*

Legal Disclaimer

The Concerted Action for the Energy Efficiency Directive (CA EED) was launched in 2013 to provide a structured framework for the exchange of information between the 28 Member States and Norway during their implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED).
The CA EED is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 and is in its third phase.

For further information please visit **www.ca-eed.eu** or contact the CA EED Communicator at **caeed@ca-eed.eu**.

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY
DIRECTIVE

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