

Briefing

An ambitious EU Recovery Plan for a safer and more secure Society

Time has come to rethink our future in light of the impact of COVID-19 on how we conduct our lives, the environment and the economy. Euralarm has full confidence in the European political institutions to take the right decisions which will strengthen the cohesion of the European Union and revive our economy while ensuring for all citizens a sustainable future, be it in terms of environment, energy, use of natural resources as well as safety and security.

Among the Green Deal proposals, Euralarm welcomes the **“Renovation Wave”** initiative aimed at boosting the rate of deep renovation in all buildings be they private or public.

Building renovations as driver for change

Better performing buildings also means safer and more secure buildings. Every year, EU countries experience major fires in residential, commercial and industrial buildings, taking lives of thousands of European citizens and creating considerable environmental damage. This can be avoided with the deployment of integrated fire safety and security technologies.

The “Renovation Wave” is a unique opportunity to introduce a holistic approach towards fire safety and security in renovated buildings. It is also a challenge because renovations can introduce significant changes in fire safety and security requirements that must be carefully evaluated by qualified people and companies. In the short term, there will be resistance. But in the long term, safe and secure buildings will contribute to the new European economy as well as the future European ecology.

Beyond the recommendations that are already in the EPBD¹, we **call on EU decision makers to create incentives for all renovated buildings to be fitted with the latest technologies in terms of fire safety and security.**

Reassess European cybersecurity strategy

During the crisis, Europe had no other choice than to accelerate the digitalisation of its economy. With ambitious measures supporting a **“Digital Recovery”**, the digital transformation can be confirmed and amplified in the short term.

We have seen the effects of the slow adoption of digitalisation in the building industry and welcome an acceleration of the digital transformation. During the crisis, connectivity crisis has proven to be pivotal to remote work.

¹ Ex DIRECTIVE (EU) 2018/844 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings and Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency.

Article 2a paragraph 7: “Each Member State may use its long-term renovation strategy to address fire safety and risks related to intense seismic activity affecting energy efficiency renovations and the lifetime of buildings.”

Article 7 paragraph 5: “Member States shall encourage, in relation to buildings undergoing major renovation, high-efficiency alternative systems, in so far as this is technically, functionally and economically feasible, and shall address the issues of healthy indoor climate conditions, fire safety and risks related to intense seismic activity.”

It became clear that wherever our members had remote access to security and fire safety systems, there has been no disruption of service provided. We could continue to ensure the safety of the population in such crisis.

To ensure that this remote connectivity is increasingly used, **Euralarm recommends to reassess the European cybersecurity strategy. Some sectors of the industry – including services – have specificities that should be taken into consideration when rethinking the cybersecurity strategy.**

Single Market back on track

The EU Recovery Plan is also a unique opportunity to bring the Single Market back on track and to definitely address unjustified barriers that remain in place for products and for services. In our sector, and despite all our efforts to create European standards for products, systems and services, obstacles remain for cross-border trade, especially for SMEs. It is now time to put an end to these barriers and work together towards a society that shares and cares.

Again it is the COVID-19 crisis that demonstrates the crucial need that barriers be definitely removed. Therefore, **Euralarm calls on the European Commission to engage in a consultation with stakeholders most affected by these remaining barriers to find sector-specific measures to achieve the long-expected Single Market in Europe.**

About Euralarm

Euralarm represents the fire safety and security industry, providing leadership and expertise for industry, market, policy makers and standards bodies. Our members make society safer and secure through systems and services for fire detection and extinguishing, intrusion detection, access control, video monitoring, alarm transmission and alarm receiving centres. Founded in 1970, Euralarm represents over 5 000 companies, employing 700 000 people within the fire safety and security industry with an estimated revenue of 67 billion Euros. Euralarm members are national associations and individual companies from across Europe.

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Note: The English version of this document is the approved Euralarm reference document.