

# WORLDGBC ERN POLICY TASK FORCE

27 October 2023

# Agenda



1. Introductions (5)
2. European Policy Update - EPBD trilogues (15)
3. ERN Manifesto workshop (65)
  - Introduction and recap of Athens workshop (5 mins)
  - Group discussions on updating the Manifesto policy recommendations (50 mins)
  - Summarising breakout discussions and timeline ahead for Manifesto (10 mins)
4. Close and next steps (5)

# European Policy Update - EPBD trilogues

# EPBD trilogues update

- The third EPBD trilogue meeting took place on **12 October**
- The meeting saw discussion of some of the most controversial elements of the EPBD, including Minimum Energy Performance Standards, Energy Performance Certificates and Zero Emission Buildings, as well as Whole Life Carbon.
- Inflexibility of Council in discussions led to significant concessions on MEPS and ZEB in particular - Cuffe called the text agreed upon a “fair compromise that can be supported by all groups in Parliament and the Member States in Council.”
- Most positive was agreement around Whole Life Carbon reporting and limit values
- Progress was sufficient in this trilogue for a date for the next political trilogue to be set as **8 December**, following 3 or four technical meetings before that

# Minimum Energy Performance Standards

- Concession to Member States on MEPS: an average approach over the whole building stock will be used instead of EU renovation requirements on individual buildings based on harmonised energy classes
  - Member States will design MEPS and select building segments and renovation depth according to national energy class system, and national renovation trajectory.
- Majority of renovations (55%) needs to be achieved among worst performing buildings, which are defined as the 43% lowest performing buildings of the national stock,
- A fixed % (tbc in final trilogue) of average primary energy savings will have to be reached by 2030 and 2035 respectively, with national strategies determining the subsequent renovation efforts in line with the objective of a zero emission building stock by 2050.
- Parliament made clear that it does not want to fall behind the ambition level of the Commission proposal in terms of savings achieved and buildings renovated.

# Zero Emission Buildings

- This has also been watered down, with no flexibility shown by Council in negotiations
- ZEB standard for new buildings will now be set at national level, according to Member States cost optimality calculations - which has to be at least 10% better performing than NZEB
- While ZEBs may not cause any on-site emissions from fossil fuels, different options for powering and heating/cooling buildings are allowed in line with general decarbonisation requirements:
  - On-site renewables
  - Renewables from an energy communities
  - Energy from efficient district heating and cooling systems
- If technically and economically not feasible, other energy from the grid may also be used for ZEBs.
- Also agreed on ban subsidies for stand-alone fossil fuel boilers from 2025, with an exemption for current EU funding programmes.

# Energy Performance Certificates

- No harmonisation of the national energy class systems, while a common template for EPCs applies.
- Certificates will run from A to G, with possibility for Member States to include A+ category for buildings that are better than ZEBs, such as passive houses for example.
- The validity of certificates stays at 10 years, while building owners of low performing buildings shall get an invitation to their closest one stop shop for renovation advice

# Whole Life Carbon

- Agreement on Whole Life Carbon is similar to European Parliament position, with the following timeline:

**2025:** delegated act for harmonised approach on WLC reporting

**2027:** deadline for Member States to develop roadmap with WLC maximum values set at national level

**2028:** mandatory WLC reporting for new public buildings

**2030:** mandatory WLC reporting for all new buildings and Member States have to introduce maximum WLC values for all new buildings



# ERN Manifesto update plans

# ERN Manifesto - background

- WorldGBC launched the original ERN Manifesto in 2019 in the run up to the last European Elections
- The Manifesto consists of eight key policy areas that we want EU policymakers to focus on:
  - CO2 emissions
  - Circular economy
  - Health and wellbeing
  - Water
  - Value and cost
  - Resilience
  - Biodiversity
  - Just transition

**EUROPE REGIONAL NETWORK** 

## A sustainable built environment at the heart of Europe's future

**Sustainable buildings at the heart of Europe's future**

The European Commission has demonstrated a commitment to tackling key environmental, economic and societal issues by signing up to the Paris Agreement and committing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and, more recently, the articulation of a vision for a climate neutral Europe by 2050.

The role of the built environment sector in addressing these complex issues is crucial, and sustainable buildings have huge potential in helping to achieve these goals. In fact, it will be impossible to achieve the vision of a climate neutral Europe unless the vast potential in the built environment sector is unlocked.

Only by establishing strong policies that support transformative action can the potential of the sector be realised. Below, we outline the key policy and regulatory changes that European leaders must endorse and champion to realise this potential.

As European decision makers look to develop and define their priorities for the next five years, we urge them to recognise the vital role that the built environment plays in delivering on key European priorities.

The World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) Europe Regional Network represents Green Building Councils in over 20 countries and works with nine regional partners and over 4,500 diverse members across the construction and real estate sector. Together, we are the voice for a sustainable built environment in Europe.

Our vision is for a sustainable built environment at the heart of Europe's future and our mission is to unite our whole sector through action and advocacy that accelerates our shift towards this vision. The WorldGBC Europe Regional Network has identified eight priority areas that must guide and shape actions towards achieving this vision.

-  **36%** of all emissions
-  **40%** of energy consumption
-  **50%** of extracted materials
-  **21%** of total water abstracted
-  **18 million** construction jobs.

# ERN Manifesto - why update it?

- There have been major political developments over the last 4-5 years, such as the finalisation of the EU Green Deal, Fit for 55 & the EPBD/EED/RED revisions, & the COM WLC roadmap
- Our network has matured our positions on a number of key topics since 2019
  - For example, through our campaigning on the EPBD and the creation of the WLC roadmap we have developed more nuanced positions on different decarbonisation measures
  - The WLC policy briefing earlier this year also set out more specific positions on this topic
- We need a way to succinctly articulate our network's positions in the runup to the elections
  - Politicians will be receiving a large amount of communications so important that we can summarise in a few pages what we stand for

# ERN Manifesto - Athens workshop & today

- In Athens we divided into four tables each discussing different policy areas
- The main aim was to identify where topics have matured since 2019 and where our network could provide more detailed recommendations
- We also had a shorter discussion on advocacy tactics and the ways in which GBCs would use the Manifesto once it has been updated
- In today's session we will focus on using the time to give space for you to make suggestions of how we can update the Manifesto recommendations

# ERN Manifesto workshop breakout structure

- Groups to read 2019 Manifesto recommendations **(10 minutes - 10:55-11:05)**
- Groups to review existing post-it notes for their first and second policy areas and add suggestions for changes/additions in the 2024 redraft of the Manifesto **(20 mins - 11.05-11.25)**

## Questions to consider when making your suggestions:

What has changed in this area since 2019, both at EU and national level?

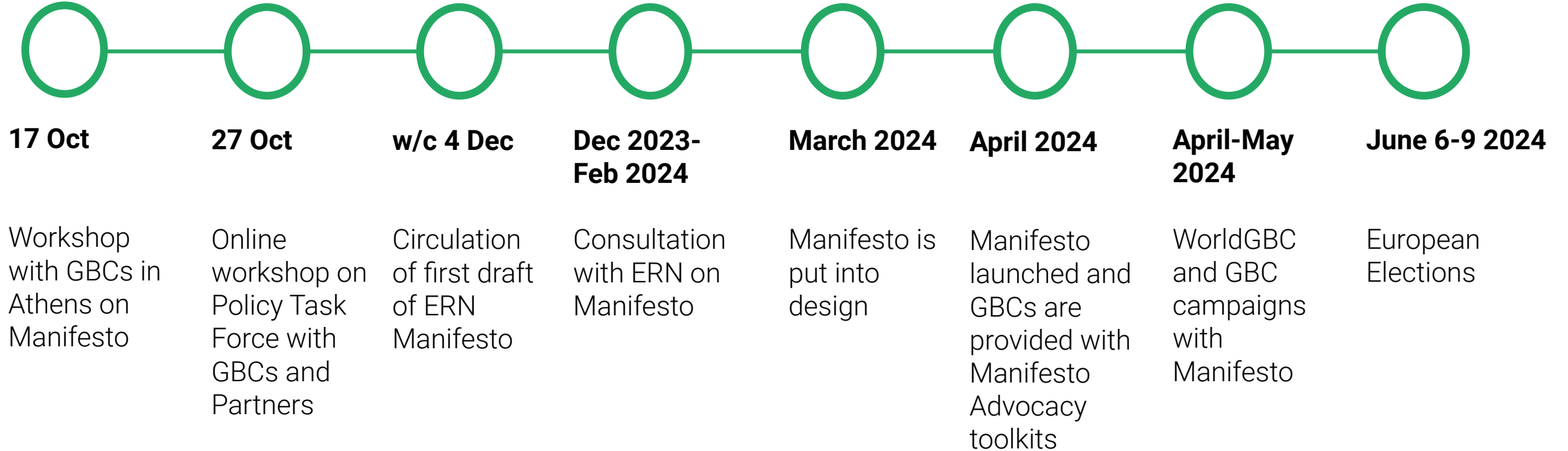
Is the focus/framing of these policy recommendations area still relevant in 2023?

- Groups to repeat this process for their third and fourth policy areas **(20 mins - 11.25-11.45)**

## Back to plenary

- Summarising breakout discussions and timeline ahead for Manifesto **(10 mins - 11.45-11.55)**

# ERN Manifesto - timeline for update



# Close and Next Steps