

Press release (translation)

Achieving EU climate targets with innovation partnership

Berlin, 18.12.2020 – Following the launch of the European Climate Pact, the German Property Federation (ZIA), the leading association of the real estate industry, has expressly declared its support for the goal of climate neutrality in 2050 and offered close cooperation between the real estate industry at European level.

ZIA Vice President Thomas Zinnöcker explained, "The Climate Pact is intended to bring together as many citizens and stakeholders as possible to master the challenges ahead, exchange ideas and best practices, and motivate and inspire each other! There are so many different levers for CO2 reduction in the building sector that it really pays to tackle things together."

Zinnöcker offered the European Commission that as an association one would be happy to actively contribute the comprehensive expertise of the industry. "The good experience at the federal level with the innovation partnership should also be used at the European level. We and many of my colleagues from other EU member states are available to the European institutions as a constructive dialogue partner within the framework of a European Innovation Partnership," said Zinnöcker.

He pointed out that the real estate industry has been a pioneer in climate protection for years. Between 1990 and 2019, for example, annual CO2 emissions had already been reduced from 209 to 122 million tons. "In no other sector are the emission reductions realized during this period as high as in the building sector. In order to achieve further savings in existing buildings, the most important adjusting screw for achieving the climate targets in the building sector, we must use all levers: Optimizing the envelope, optimizing use, replacing outdated technology. We will also certainly have to discuss the issue of offset credits again in the future."

He added to support the statement by Frans Timmermans, executive vice president of the European Commission, that digitalization plays a key role in achieving climate goals. "This also applies to buildings, where there is significant potential from AI and blockchain solutions," Zinnöcker said.

He also referred to the call for improved tax incentives for energy-efficient building renovation, which should not be thwarted by European state aid law in particular.

The ZIA

The ZIA German Property Federation (ZIA) is the leading professional association and the regulatory-policy and economic-policy interest group for Germany's entire real estate industry, and is based in Berlin. Through its members, including 28 associations, it speaks on behalf of around 37,000 companies in the industry along the entire value chain. The ZIA represents the diverse interests within the real estate industry in the form of unified, integrative positions which correspond to the industry's significance for the national economy. As an association of entrepreneurs and associations, it gives the entire real estate industry a voice at national and European level – and in the Federal Association of the German Industry (BDI). The president of the association is Dr. Andreas Mattner.

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