

European Charter for Careful Energy Improvement of Historic Buildings

This Charter is intended to provide a set of important principles for decision making in relation to [climate change] and energy improvement of historic building in Europe

The historic environment is central to Europe's cultural heritage and sense of identity and hence a resource that should be sustained for the benefit of present and future generations.

With this Charter [EHHF] is expressing its support to political aims among European Governments to cut down on carbon and improve energy efficiency and at the same time underlining the importance of keeping exemptions from requirements of Directive 2002/91 in relation to historic buildings.

Important principles are:

1. Before considering any alteration in historic buildings there should be conducted a an in depth study of the building including external features, spaces, internal layout and internal features as well as details, such as ceiling decorations.
2. The effect of the planned energy improvement should be calculated and alternatives should be investigated in order to balance the need for building conservation and energy conservation.
3. Principles of minimum intervention should be in use in order to sustain the historic environment.
4. Priority should be given to further collaboration among the European Countries in relation to careful energy improvement of historic buildings (i.e. buildings before 1950, or as defined by national legislation). Such collaboration should include exchange of best practises, case studies and research as well as exchange of information on this important issue.
5. Priority should also be given to further collaboration between heritage authorities and energy authorities, advisors, producers and research institution in order to stress the importance of the historic environment and to provide tools, products and instruments addressing the particular constructions, features and materials of historic houses.