

'Renovation must always include lighting'

LightingEurope has issued a statement strongly supporting the call in the EU Renovation Wave Initiative just published to scale up renovation rates across the European Union.

"We can only agree with Vice-President Timmermans that we need everyone in Europe to have a home they can light, heat, or cool without breaking the bank or breaking the planet," said Ourania Georgoutsakou, Secretary General of LightingEurope (below). "However, we regret that there is no clear reference to lighting in the main RW Communication just published by the Commission, in light

of the benefits lighting can deliver not only in terms of energy savings but also in creating both safe and quality indoor environments."

In support of this statement Georgoutsakou made these points:

- Europe's lighting industry already has the innovative and energy efficient technologies to hand, ready to install;
- Properly-designed and well-coordinated lighting systems are one of the most cost-efficient ways to reduce energy consumption and CO2 emissions. The European Commission estimates that LED-based lighting systems could save the EU up to 48-46 TWh of electricity annually by 2050;
- Better indoor lighting is also one of the major factors impacting people's wellbeing. For example, students in a classroom with bright white lights score 14% higher than students working in a poorly-lit one;
 - UV-C is an established working technology for disinfection that must be part of the design of safe healthy indoor spaces. This technology has been proven to

inactivate, without exception, all bacteria and viruses against which it has been tested. It is widely used today to disinfect water, air, and surfaces in industrial, commercial, medical, public and residential environments.

Georgoutsakou maintains there cannot, and should not, be any renovation of buildings in Europe without upgrading the lighting installations. To grasp the full benefits of better lighting as part of the EU Renovation Wave, LightingEurope recommend in particular:

- The use of LED lighting, in combination with controls and sensors;
- A full renovation of luminaires that include controls and sensors, with a minimum Smart Readiness Indicator (SRI) level. The SRI should also be applied across Europe to maximise its potential for energy savings and a better indoor environment;
- The design of safe indoor spaces that includes the installation of UV-C disinfection technologies, as a means not only to address the current COVID-19 pandemic, but also more generally and in the longer term, to help ensure healthy indoor environments;
- The introduction of mandatory minimum requirements on Indoor Environment Quality (IEQ);
- Access to public financing should be subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions. An obligation to include lighting renovation to obtain full subsidy should be introduced.

See www.lightingeurope.org ■

