

European Heat Pump Market and Statistics Report 2016



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Editorial

Dear Reader,

when we were collecting the heat pump data 2015 we could not help but think “is this the end of the tunnel?”.

After six years of overall stagnation and very different market conditions and developments across the 21 European countries covered, the year-over-year growth in 2015 is 12%. All but one market show significant growth. Heat pump sales in Europe have reached the highest number ever recorded: 890 302 units. A heat pump stock of 8.4 million units reduces fossil energy demand and related emissions and contributes to cleaner skies over European cities. If this growth rate continued, the EU heat pump market stock would double within the next 5–6 years. This gives room for optimism, but is by no means a reason to sit back and relax.

The challenge to decarbonise the energy system is tremendous and the agreed upon measures (NDC) in the Paris agreement are not ambitious enough to achieve a 2°C global warming scenario. Much more has to be done to improve the efficiency of energy use and to integrate energy from renewable sources. The good news about it: heat pumps do contribute to all targets but their full potential still needs to be explored. Only few Member States have recognized heat pumps for what they are: best available technology for heating and cooling.

The European Commission has made a start with its heating and cooling strategy that recognizes the important of the buildings sector as well as industrial heat applications. We will now have to work towards its implementation via the renewables, energy efficiency and energy efficient buildings Directives.

In times of zero interest from your savings accounts, an investment in 2050-ready technologies provides stable returns in the future and makes heating and cooling cost stable and more predictable. Each unit of fossil energy that we do not have to import retains purchasing power in Europe.

Finally, building data shows that renovation cycles are slow – Europe’s Buildings Performance Institute expects that 80% of the buildings that are standing today will be here in 2050. With low renovation rates, we probably have one opportunity to significantly reduce their energy demand until 2050. This opportunity should not be missed. Heat pump based systems are certainly not only part of the solution for renovating buildings but also for renovating Europe’s energy system.



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