

PRESS RELEASE

“NEARLY ZERO ENERGY HOTELS FOR ACHIEVING LOW CARBON GROWTH IN EUROPE”

High Level Event at the European Parliament - 17th March 2016 in Brussels

The neZEH High Level Event “[Nearly Zero Energy Hotels for Achieving Low Carbon Growth in Europe](#)” hosted by [Member of the European Parliament Mrs. Maria Grapini](#) (S&D Romania) took place at the European Parliament in Brussels on the 17th of March 2016, with great success.

The event aimed at steering the attention of regional, national and European policy makers to [commit to nearly zero energy](#) growth in the tourism sector, to reduce legislative barriers and to introduce supportive measures. More than [65 participants](#) took part of the event, representing policy makers, as well as private sector representatives from the tourism and energy efficiency arena.

The [distinguished panellists](#), composed of Members of the European Parliament from Romania, Hungary and Croatia, the European Commission Directorate General for ENER and GROWTH, the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME), the Region of Île-de-France in France, the Croatian Ministry of Tourism, UNWTO, the European Hotel Association HOTREC and NECSTouR, shared their reflections and proposed suggestions on how to scale up neZEH results and move from 16 pilot projects to a critical mass of hotels achieving neZEH status in Europe.

A fruitful discussion was held around the working version of the [neZEH project's Position Paper](#) aimed at addressing the tourism - energy - buildings nexus for EU Policy makers, where [recommendations](#) were proposed [to facilitate the successful scaling up of neZEH refurbishment within Europe's accommodation sector](#). Recommendations consisted of coordinated dialogue between competent authorities for energy and buildings both at EU and national/regional levels, information provision, technical and financial support for SME hotels, specific nZEB national targets for hotel buildings, advocacy campaigns and staff training.

“Horizon 2020 programme allocates €6billion to energy efficiency projects, from which 15% aims at market uptake measures to remove market and governance barriers by addressing financing, regulations and improving skills” **Vincent Berruto, Head of Unit of H2020 Energy, EASME, European Commission**

“Considering sustainability is intrinsically related to competitiveness, our efforts are devoted not only to maintain Europe as the world's leading tourism destination but also to become the greenest destination in the world” **Carlo Corazza, Head of Unit of Tourism, Creative and Emerging Industries-DG GROWTH, European Commission**

The event welcomed a presentation from the Balvanyos Resort - Grand Hotel in Romania, one of the neZEH pilot hotels, as a [real neZEH example](#), about the reasons and benefits of moving towards nearly zero energy performance and giving examples of both implemented and planned measures.

MEP Mrs. Grapini, has supported the neZEH initiative since its beginning and has proposed [neZEH](#) as an [example of low carbon measures for the European tourism](#) within the Opinion of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection for the Committee on Transport and Tourism on new challenges and concepts for the promotion of tourism in Europe (2014/2241(INI) for which she is Rapporteur.

The neZEh Pilot Hotels:

COUNTRY/REGION/TOWN	NAME OF HOTEL
Croatia/Dalmatia/Supetar	Villa Adriatica
Croatia/Dalmatia/Split (Podstrana)	Hotel Split
France/Corse du Sud/Ajaccio	Best Western Ajaccio Amiraute
France/Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur/La Palud sur Verdon	Hotel des Gorges du Verdon
Greece/Crete/Rethymnon	Ibiscos Garden Hotel
Greece/Crete/Lasithi,Sisi	Sentido Vasia Resort & Spa
Greece/Crete/Chania	Arkadi Hotel
Italy/Piemonte/Valdieri (CN)	Hotel Royal Terme di Valdieri
Italy/Piemonte/Torino (TO)	Residence L'Orologio
Romania/Brasov county/Brasov city	Cubix Hotel
Romania/Brasov county/Brasov city	Kolping Hotel
Romania/Covasna county/Turia commune	Grand Hotel Balvanyos
Spain/Vizcaya/Artzentales	Hotel Amalurra
Spain/Alicante/Benidorm	Corona Del Mar
Sweden/Gotland/Visby	St Clemens Hotel
Sweden/Uppland/Sigtuna	Stora Brännbo Konferens och Hotell AB



More information about the neZEh pilot hotels is available on [neZEh web page](#) and [neZEh YouTube](#) channel. You can join the neZEh network community simply by registering at www.nezeh.eu.

The European initiative neZEh

The **nearly Zero Energy Hotels** (neZEh) is co-funded by the **European Commission** within the **Intelligent Energy Europe Programme**. It aims to accelerate the rate of large scale renovations of hotels to nearly Zero Energy Buildings (nZEB) by providing technical advice to committed hoteliers and demonstrating flagship nZEB projects in the European hospitality sector. **Sixteen pilot hotels** across **seven** European countries (Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Romania, Spain and Sweden) now follow renovation plans to become nearly Zero Energy Hotels and act as **examples of best practice** in Europe.

THE neZEh TEAM



Technical University of Crete,
Renewable and Sustainable Energy
Systems Lab – (Coordinator)
Greece



United Nations World
Tourism Organization



Federation of European
Heating and Air-conditioning
Associations



Network of European
Region for a Sustainable
and Competitive Tourism



Agency of Braşov for
Energy Management and
Environment Protection
Romania



Creara Consultores S.L.
Spain



ENERGIES 2050
France



Energy Institute
Hrvoje Požar
Croatia



Istituto Superiore sui
Sistemi Territoriali per
l'Innovazione
Italy



Sustainable Innovation
Sweden

CONTACT: Technical University of Crete, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Systems Lab, Mrs Stavroula Tournaki • +30 28210 37861 • stavroula.tournaki@enveng.tuc.gr • info@nezeh.eu • www.nezeh.eu