

...OPEN FORUM...

«There will be no transition without an effective response to energy insecurity! »

Christophe ROBERT, *General Delegate of the Abbé Pierre Foundation*



« Manifestly public policy has been stepped up since 2010 and more recently with the Energy Transition Act: EEC, renovation targets, Live Better programme... But the number of households affected continues to increase so we need to redouble our efforts. »

« A growing number of people are having to do without heating: in 2013, according to Insee, 19% of households stated they had suffered from cold during year, mainly for financial reasons (11% in 1996). According to ONPE, 1 million households are seriously affected by energy insecurity and a study initiated by the Foundation shows that doing without heating has an impact on acute and chronic illnesses (cardio-vascular and respiratory diseases, depression etc...), thus constituting a real public health problem.

Energy insecurity is widespread and goes beyond homelessness. Ignorant of the existing schemes to help them, refusing on occasions to make use of them for fear of being classed among the « excluded », the people affected often remain invisible. The first challenge therefore is to identify and go out and meet those who are forced to live in homes riddled with energy leaks: owners who do not always have the means to finance the work necessary by themselves or tenants who do not have the means to rent energy efficient accommodation.

Manifestly public policy has been stepped up since 2010 and more recently with the Energy Transition Act: EEC, renovation targets, Live Better programme... But the number of households affected continues to increase so we need to redouble our efforts. To date social housing units and owner occupiers of individual homes receive more or less suitable aid. But nothing, or virtually nothing, has yet been done for the co-owned properties and rented accommodation. As regards rented accommodation, in addition to the financial aid, a strong signal needs to be sent to the landlords to get them to do the essential work. The Energy Transition Act includes a criterion of

energy performance in the letting conditions. The application decree that is to be issued must make things clear by providing for example that the housing units with the worst energy label cannot be let after 2020, then 5 years later for the category below...

But the priority remains the massive renovation of the buildings that are riddled with energy leaks. And if dealing with several million housing units within a short time represents a big investment, the gravity of the situation and the return on investment possibilities (saving on expenditure on healthcare, tax credits, non-relocatable jobs, reduction in energy imports) should motivate ambitious measures.

Lastly, it is necessary to combine these actions that will produce effects over the long term with palliative actions: an « energy shield » providing help with the payment of bills is indispensable at a time when the social housing rents and the energy cheque in the process of experimentation are inadequate on account of an over-complex system and above all a total amount of aid that does not provide any remedy for privation. »

See you at 11.30 a.m. on 25 January 2017, at the European Energy Transition Conference in Bordeaux, to attend the introductory plenary session « Energy insecurity: what are the new avenues for dealing with it?», chaired by **Christophe ROBERT** and also **Bruno LECHEVIN** – Chairman of ADEME, **Florence GILBERT** – General Manager of Wimoov and Chairwoman of the Inclusive Mobility Laboratory, and **Silvia Rosales-Montano** – Director of Studies, Town Planning Agency of the Lyons Metropolitan Area.

For more information about the Abbé Pierre Foundation: <http://www.fondation-abbe-pierre.fr/>

[Back to the European Energy Transition website](#)