Event: **ENERGY in BUILDINGS - CRETE 2024**
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Place: Heraklion, Crete

#	**Antigoni Pafiti** Credentials (e.g. Mechanical Engineer, Degrees etc.)	
Title:	Policy Officer, Hydrogen Europe, Brussels – Belgium	
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Presentation title:	Why Hydrogen could be Considered an Important Element in Meeting the Decarbonisation Challenges of the Heating Market: EU Policy Landscape & Facts	

Buildings represent the largest energy consumers in Europe, underscoring the pivotal role of the building sector in achieving the EU's ambitious energy and climate targets. According to data from the European Commission, buildings contribute to 40% of energy consumption and 36% of greenhouse gas emissions in the EU, with a significant portion attributed to outdated structures constructed before 2000, of which 75% exhibit poor energy performance.

To improve building energy efficiency, the EU has implemented a comprehensive legislative framework, including revisions to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and the Energy Efficiency Directive. These directives aim to transition buildings to highly energy-efficient and decarbonized states by 2050, fostering a stable investment environment and empowering consumers and businesses to make informed choices that conserve energy and reduce costs.

In the upcoming presentation, I will emphasize the importance of preserving diverse heating and cooling options for consumers during this transition. Analysis of the current policy landscape and anticipated expectations from member states, along with an exploration of why hydrogen is a critical solution, will be key points of discussion.

Some of the main points & key messages: Hydrogen's adaptability addresses significant challenges by reducing the need for extensive electricity grid expansion, facilitating renewable energy storage to manage seasonal variations, enabling efficient energy transport across geographical disparities, and facilitating the importation of affordable renewable energy. By leveraging hydrogen's capabilities, the building sector can transition towards sustainable practices while ensuring energy security and affordability. This transition not only contributes substantially to the EU's decarbonization efforts but also serves as a model for global sustainability endeavors.

Short CV:

I am a young professional with a legal background. I hold a Law degree from the University of Cyprus and a master's degree in international business from the Université libre de Bruxelles. Specializing in the energy sector, I have been passionately advancing my expertise in the hydrogen sphere. Currently serving as a Policy Officer at Hydrogen Europe since November 2021, I am deeply engaged in advocating for industry members across the hydrogen value chain. In my role, I actively contribute to shaping evolving energy regulatory and policy landscapes in Europe, with a particular focus on hydrogen production and its application in heating systems.