On 10 October 2012 the European Investment Bank has launched a public consultation as part of review of its energy sector lending policy, in which energy efficiency represents a key place.

Our Federation supports the EU Heads of State and Government agree to an EU-wide energy savings target of 20% to be achieved by 2020 and in this context it is meaningful that taking action to address the energy efficiency of the buildings represents the main way to improve these energy savings.

The goal should be to achieve this energy savings without raising the houses productions costs, that would force homebuilders to transfer these increases to the houseprices, producing a lack of affordability.

The main tool to achieve this goal is using the energy performance contracting through the energy services companies. These companies deliver these energy efficiency improvement measures in a user’s facility and pay part or all of the cost, which are paid back with the money saved in the energy bills. The market for such services is still underdeveloped.

Furthermore it’s necessary to ease the access to the credit to these companies in order to provide their services.

Another way to reach the same goal is represented by the green deal companies in UK, which will offer energy efficiency investments to householders and later they recover payments through their energy bills.

In both cases measures to ease the access to the credit are the key point to enhance the development of these kind of companies, and among these measures it would propose the following:

1. since the eight of December the last year, the ECB allows as collateral to recive lending in long term for the EA banks, loans provided to SME. Therefore the NCB (nationals central banks) could force banks for that a part of the lending obtained by this way, it would be given to energy services companies or green deal companies.

2. reducing the risk weight of these kind of assets, loans to energy services companies and green deal companies, in order to calculate capital ratios of banks, would be another measure to encourage the financing of these companies.

3. the both measures could foster by the EIB at the European Central Bank, including the loans for the energy services companies granted by the EIB. Both measures will encourage the EIB for lending to the energy services companies.