

Brussels, 11th March 2013

To: Directors General for Energy of EU Member States

Priority for energy efficiency in 2030 climate and energy policy framework

Dear Director General,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Coalition for Energy Savings in advance of your meeting on 14th March. We want to stress the importance of an EU target for energy efficiency improvements to realise energy savings and thereby reduce energy costs and trade deficits, create local and stable jobs and ensure sustainable growth. The case for giving priority to energy efficiency in Europe's energy and climate policy framework 2030 is all the more compelling as national economies are drifting further apart, youth unemployment is hitting record highs and public acceptance for expensive energy supply solutions is dwindling.

Without the many EU and national energy efficiency improvement measures in place our energy systems would barely be working. Unfortunately, the positive impact is not sufficiently recognised and significant cost-effective efficiency potentials are yet to be realised across the EU¹. They go far beyond the Roadmap 2050 scenarios and could help to halve the EU's massive energy trade deficit of nearly €400 billion² by 2030, while reducing fossil fuel subsidies, re-investing in energy savings infrastructure, further reducing energy costs and making greenhouse gas and renewable energy targets cheaper to meet.

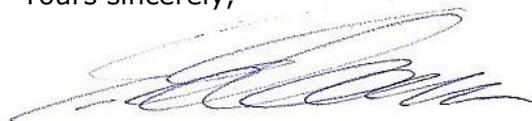
The recent Energy Efficiency Directive is a step in the right direction and could be worth up to €200 billion³ net savings per year for households and businesses if it is fully implemented and closes the gap to the EU's 2020 energy efficiency target. But this can only happen if the relevant actors, citizens, workers and businesses, are convinced by political commitments beyond 2020.

We believe that the Directive calls for and has opened the door for setting a 2030 target and correcting the mistake during the 2020 climate and energy target setting when energy efficiency was only treated as an afterthought. It is time to correct this error of the past. Furthermore, we now have ample evidence that a GHG target alone is not sufficient to overcome the barriers to realise the energy savings potentials and thus would not respond convincingly to concerns about costs and competitiveness.

The Coalition for Energy Savings, which brings together European business and civil society associations and trade unions, has called on the European Commission and offered its support to develop a target for 2030, which adequately reflects the long-term 2050 sectoral energy saving potentials and effort-sharing considerations and sits within a mutually reinforcing 2030 framework of policies and targets.

We hope that you will appreciate and consider our arguments for giving priority to energy efficiency in order to improve the climate and energy policy framework for 2030.

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General

¹ Fraunhofer ISI, Contribution of Energy Efficiency Measures to Climate Protection within the European Union, 2012

² Eurostat 2012

³ Ecofys, Saving energy – bringing down Europe's energy prices for 2020 and beyond, 2013