

Brussels, the 19th November 2012

To: College of Commissioners
José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

Open letter - Energy savings to be first policy priority for 2030 and beyond

Dear President,

Energy efficiency is gaining momentum according to the IEA's World Energy Outlook this year and could be the basis of the next energy revolution if countries take action to unlock efficiency potentials. Of all regions, the EU has most to gain from energy efficiency.

In light of this, we are concerned that the role of energy savings seems overlooked in the emerging discussions on 2030 climate and energy policy.

The Coalition for Energy Savings calls on you to make energy efficiency and savings the first priority of European energy and economic policies for 2030 and beyond.

Energy efficiency and savings are an objective in their own right. Whilst energy efficiency and savings are the most cost-effective source of greenhouse gas emission reductions, they also offer enormous benefits in terms of energy security, employment creation, public budget recovery, improved health and quality of life, and a more sustainable use of natural resources. Energy savings investments are an indicator of the health of the economy, as they require durable job creation and result in long-term benefits for consumers. In a context of a global increase of resource scarcity, reducing energy waste is the easiest first step in the unavoidable long-term change of consumption patterns.

Energy efficiency and savings are a prerequisite for a successful post-2020 climate and energy policy. Delivering the full economic potential for energy efficiency and savings is the only way to ensure that the most cost-effective greenhouse gas emission reductions will be delivered. Market-based instruments or greenhouse gas and renewable energy targets alone are not adequate to minimise the infrastructure costs of a renewable energy system and maximise macro-economic benefits.

Decisive public intervention is required to seize Europe's energy savings potential in 2030 and beyond. The failure of current policies to secure the EU's 2020 energy savings target shows that the pace and ambition of public intervention must be radically stepped up if Europe is to seize its energy savings potential in 2030 and beyond. Only a dedicated policy architecture that combines legislation and targets will provide the necessary motivation and accountability for policy-makers and implementers, create acceptance among citizens and energy consumers, and give investors and infrastructure planners long-term predictability.

We believe that the EU has a distinct interest in being a global leader for energy efficiency policies. Therefore, we need your leadership for a 2030 policy agenda, which makes energy efficiency and savings its first priority.

Yours sincerely,

Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General

