

To: Heads of State or Government, President van Rompuy, President Barroso

CC: Commissioner for Energy Oettinger, Commissioner for Climate Action Hedegaard

Brussels, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

## **Moderating energy demand to reduce energy dependence**

### **Time to move from announcements to action**

Mr Faymann,

Ahead of the European summit on 26-27 June the Coalition for Energy Savings is calling on your leadership to advance the EU's energy security strategy with concrete actions to increase energy efficiency and moderate demand. Robust actions on energy efficiency are the first step to reduce Europe's energy dependency, as you recognised in your March Council conclusions.

While the European Commission's Energy Security Strategy Communication confirms that moderating energy demand is a key pillar, it fails to put forward concrete proposals to increase energy efficiency immediately. Neither does it provide details on an energy efficiency vision for 2030. Instead only sourcing and fuel related supply side interventions are given priority, which is not effective in reducing fuel imports. Such an approach will be extremely costly, take much longer and miss the opportunity to curb energy demand for the start.

It is worth reiterating that energy efficiency improvements are not at all a given. Progress is insufficient to tap cost-effective potentials and the EU's 20% energy efficiency target for 2020 will be missed unless greater efforts are made.

Countries that are most dependent on energy imports often have the largest energy saving potential. They must be encouraged and supported to tap into these resources. Immediate efficiency improvements, such as retrofitting of buildings and optimisation of energy use, replacement of energy inefficient appliances in homes and industries, rapid upgrading of buildings and industrial insulation, could deliver significant energy savings this winter, enhancing the EU's energy security.

But such energy savings will not materialise – may it be this year or ahead of the next energy supply crisis - without being prepared and planned for. The EU and its Member States urgently need a common plan, as well as, a vision for 2030 and beyond. This vision should include an economy wide target of 40% energy savings by 2030 based on the bottom up assessment of available potentials across all sectors. Such a target is a prerequisite to focus minds, mobilise resources and put in place measures to tap our greatest energy resource in Europe: energy savings.

Saving energy will not only increase supply security, it will also create local jobs, improve competitiveness and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In moments of difficult economic times, national governments should be encouraged to direct the benefits of energy efficiency programmes to the most vulnerable. They should also rely on their local and regional authorities which have many levers to make their territories more energy autonomous.

Energy efficiency does not come at no cost. Upfront investments are high and require leveraging private capital. This should not constitute a barrier: creating prospects for attractive and replicable energy efficiency projects comes at a moment when financial markets are looking for investment opportunities.

The time for the EU to provide an ambitious and binding 2030 energy efficiency target is overdue. Only with it will an energy security strategy be a long lasting one, and both climate and energy policies be more effective in a competitive world.

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General

*The Coalition for Energy Savings brings together 26 business, professional, local authorities, trade unions and civil society associations. The Coalition's purpose is to make the case for a European energy policy that places a much greater, more meaningful emphasis on energy efficiency and savings. In particular it is arguing for making the 20% energy savings target 2020 binding and to set a new energy savings target for 2030 of 40% based on the cost-effective sector potentials.*

*Coalition members represent:*

- more than 400 associations, and 150 companies
- 15 million supporters, more than 2 million employees
- 1,000 cities and towns in 30 countries in Europe

*Members of the Coalition are: Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), ClientEarth, Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-Europe), COGEN Europe, E3G, Energy Cities, European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EuroACE), European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE), European Association of Polyurethane Insulation Manufacturers (PU Europe), European Climate Foundation, European Committee of Domestic Equipment Manufacturers (CECED), European Copper Institute, European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ecee), European Environmental Bureau (EEB), European Federation for Intelligent Energy Efficiency Services (EFIEES), European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW), European Insulation Manufacturers Association (Eurima), European Federation of Public, Cooperative & Social Housing (CECODHAS Housing Europe), European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE), Friends of the Earth Europe, Glass for Europe, Lighting Europe, Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and WWF, as well as advisory members Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE) and Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP).*