

Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President for Better Regulation, European Commission

Brussels, 12th February 2015

Efficiency First for an Energy Union to secure jobs and growth and deliver on the climate challenge

Dear First Vice-President Timmermans,

With much anticipation, and high expectations, the Coalition for Energy Savings awaits the forthcoming communication from the European Commission on the Energy Union. While current geopolitical risks require that the EU takes a fresh look at its energy balance, the current times of low oil prices are a golden opportunity to step up investments to create a resilient and efficient energy system. Pivotal to this is increasing energy efficiency, which should aim to tap the huge cost-effective energy savings potential in Europe¹. This would deliver significant benefits to Europe and its citizens, in terms of increasing competitiveness, boosting economic growth, creating jobs, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as significant savings on energy bills which is a primary concern to many.

Despite encouraging signs that energy efficiency is gaining recognition in the Energy Union, we still have some major concerns about a number of elements. Actions to increase energy efficiency are still largely neglected in the context of energy security and the internal energy market, ignoring its pivotal role.

For this to happen, we believe that an operational energy savings test to ensure fair economic comparison between energy supply policies and energy efficiency policies and investments should be embedded cross all of the dimensions of the Energy Union. It would prioritise investments in energy efficiency when they make more economic sense.

Without it, energy infrastructure is planned on exaggerated demand projections, wasting public money and creating stranded assets, while failing to realise the great potential for creating local jobs, supporting the growth of European industries, transiting to a more decentralised energy system and combating climate change, all at the same time. The Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP) has published a paper which suggests details and examples of how this principle could be applied to make it operational².

Strong governance must underpin the Energy Union and build on existing legislation. For energy efficiency this means a review of the Energy Efficiency Directive is needed first before new governance can become operational. Otherwise the promise to put in place a binding energy efficiency target of 30% as a minimum seems unlikely to be kept.

We look forward to the Communication and to working with you further on this topic over the coming months.

Yours sincerely,



Paolo Falcioni, Chair of the Coalition for Energy Savings

¹ The EU could cost-effectively save 40% of its energy consumption by 2030 (Fraunhofer et al, 2014).

² The RAP paper can be found at <http://www.raponline.org/featured-work/efficiency-first-unlocking-the-promise-of-the-energy>.



The Coalition for Energy Savings strives to make energy efficiency and savings the first consideration of energy policies and the driving force towards a secure, sustainable and competitive European Union. Its membership unites businesses, professionals, local authorities, trade unions and civil society organisations in pursuit of this goal. The Coalition calls on the EU to commit itself to a 40% energy saving target by 2030, and to step up policies, measures and investments in order to stop energy waste and tap the considerable energy savings 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), CEE Bankwatch Network, 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 (eccee), European Environmental Bureau (EEB), European Federation of Intelligent Energy Efficiency Services (EFIEES), European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW), European Insulation Manufacturers Association (Eurima), European Federation of Public, Cooperative & Social Housing (Housing Europe), European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE), Friends of the Earth Europe, Glass for Europe, Lighting Europe and WWF, as well as advisory members Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE) and Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP).