

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Energy Union: Time to make the 'Efficiency First' motto operational

Brussels, 25 February 2015 – In the Energy Union strategy released today, the European Commission commits to ensure that energy efficiency competes on equal terms with energy generation.

"The European Commission is finally making energy efficiency a prerequisite for a coherent energy policy", said Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General of the Coalition for Energy Savings.

As a multi-stakeholder Coalition, uniting 26 European business, civil society, professional, trade union and local government organisations, the Coalition for Energy Savings calls on the European Union to reap the huge cost-effective energy savings potential spread across its economy, evaluated at 40% by 2030. This would bring energy security, sustainability, jobs, and economic growth.

Expectations have been raised by Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič's and Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete's calls for 'energy efficiency first' to become the Union's motto, but further steps are needed to ensure energy efficiency is prioritised over increasing supply where it would deliver more value. This includes improving the valuation of energy efficiency in energy projections, stepping up implementation of existing EU requirements, ensuring that public funding is only allocated to the most cost-effective projects, and revising legislation for the energy market and energy efficiency adequately.

"The Energy Union Communication gives a positive signal that the Commission sees the need to correct the powerful historic bias towards increasing energy supply. We now look forward to the development of actions to systematically put energy efficiency first", added Stefan Scheuer.

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The Coalition for Energy Savings brings together business, professionals, 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. Coalition members represent more than 400 associations, 150 companies, 15 million supporters, more than 2 million employees, 1,000 cities and towns in 30 countries in Europe. energycoalition.eu

Notes for editors

- European Commission's Energy Union [webpage](#)
- A [paper](#) from the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP) provides details and examples on how to put "Efficiency First" into practice.
- Letters from the Coalition for Energy Savings to [Jean-Claude Juncker](#), President of the European Commission, [Frans Timmermans](#), First Vice-President for Better Regulation, [Maroš Šefčovič](#), Vice-President for Energy Union, and [Miguel Arias Cañete](#), Commissioner for Climate Action & Energy.
- [Position paper](#) from the Coalition for Energy Savings on the governance of the Energy Union, calling on the EU to put in place controls to stop the waste of energy by enshrining a strong governance mechanism in legislation.

- The Energy Efficiency Financial Institutions Group (EEFIG) will launch a report on 26 February 2015 on "Energy Efficiency – the first fuel for the EU Economy: how to drive new finance for energy efficiency investments".