

Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission

Brussels, 20 May 2016

Energy Efficiency First

Solving Europe's jobs and growth challenge by closing Europe's investment gap

Dear President Juncker,

With high hopes we are following your efforts to improve investment conditions in Europe to create jobs and growth, and to combat climate change. Energy efficiency technologies, services, solutions and projects, in buildings, mobility, industry and energy supply, are in a pole position to deliver.

Studies by DG Energy show that a 40% increase in energy efficiency by 2030 would be cost-effective in a truly functioning market. The jobs, growth and investment resulting from this are enormous and would rejuvenate Europe: triggering over €714 billion worth of investment, creates or maintains over 11 million jobs. As you said two years ago, *"investments are the best allies of the unemployed"*.

The EFSI and dedicated use of structural funds are important elements for that. The inclusion of projects to drive energy efficiency improvements in buildings in France is a good first step. However, the investment gap is still large, particularly in countries such as Romania and Bulgaria. Financing instruments will not fully deliver in isolation. They need to be accompanied by a supportive regulatory environment that is able to remove market barriers for energy efficiency.

Therefore, we are deeply concerned that the Commission appears to be overestimating the costs of increasing energy efficiency policy ambitions. The analysis is based on an extremely pessimistic view of the ability of current and future EU and national policies to remove market barriers. This discourages public policy making and investments. The Commission should take a more positive view by applying a societal discount rate of 4%, recognising the value of energy efficiency to our society. At the same, it is vital to give equal weight to the benefits – health, jobs, competitiveness, energy security, emissions cuts – a higher efficiency ambition will bring.

The Coalition for Energy Savings, which unites businesses, professionals, local authorities, trade unions, consumer and civil society organisations, calls on you to ensure that energy efficiency is put first in the legislative work this year. This will send a positive signal to EU industry, investors and citizens.

We would like to request a meeting with you to discuss how we can help to boost investing in Europe's future.

Yours sincerely,



Paolo Falcioni
President



Members of the Coalition are:

Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), BEUC (The European Consumer Organisation), CEE Bankwatch Network, ClientEarth, Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-Europe), Climate Alliance, COGEN Europe, E3G, Energy Cities, Euroheat & Power (EHP), 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 (eceee), 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, Transport & Environment (T&E) and WWF, as well as advisory members Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE) and Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP).