

Press Release

Energy efficiency first: Bold words must become bold action

European Commission's Energy Union underplays the potential of energy efficiency but opens door for MEPs and Member States to move the efficiency agenda forward.

Brussels, 30 November 2016 – Today, the European Commission released its 'Clean Energy For All Europeans' package, including legislative proposals to review the Union's energy efficiency legislation. The Commission proposes a 2030 energy efficiency target of 30%, the upper figure anticipated by the European Council in 2014. This target level is still falling short of the tremendous economic, social and environmental potential for energy efficiency, but MEPs and Member States now have the opportunity to close this gap.

The 'Clean Energy For All Europeans' package proposes revising a number of key pieces of EU legislation to give them a post-2020 perspective, including the Energy Efficiency (EED) and the Energy Performance of Buildings (EPBD) Directives.

The European Commission proposes a binding 2030 energy efficiency target of 30% and an extension of the EED's main provisions, Article 7, until 2050. 30% is a step in the right direction, but is not enough to accelerate the pace at which Europe is currently upgrading its leaky buildings, wasteful equipment and technologies, production facilities and mobility systems.

"Finally, the proposals for the mid- to long-term perspective for energy efficiency in Europe are out. The importance of a 2050 planning horizon for structural investments through Article 7 of the EED cannot be overstated if the Energy Union is to benefit each European citizen", said Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General of the Coalition for Energy Savings. "But Europe needs a 2030 target of more than 30%. Small and larger businesses, citizens and local authorities want to see an acceleration of energy efficiency improvements, and we believe the legislative process can achieve this".

As a multi-stakeholder coalition, uniting 31 European business, civil society, consumer, professional, trade union and local government organisations, the Coalition for Energy Savings calls on the Council and on the European Parliament to maximise the tangible benefits that energy efficiency legislation can bring, by setting a 40% target based on cost-effective potentials and a delivery mechanism based on national binding targets.

Each additional 1% energy savings matters – it could take 7 million people out of energy poverty, secure 500,000 local jobs, avoid 37 million tons of CO₂eq, and cut EU gas imports by 2.6%.

More consistency should also be brought throughout the Energy Union proposals by implementing the energy efficiency first principle in each and every strand, including for example in the planning and reporting requirements described in the governance regulation, and in the electricity market design proposals.

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Contact - Marion Santini | +32 2 235 20 13 | [marion.santini\[at\]energycoalition.eu](mailto:marion.santini@energycoalition.eu) | [@EUenergysavings](https://twitter.com/EUenergysavings)

Notes for editors

- European Commission [press release](#) page
- [Statement](#) sent by the Coalition to Commissioners ahead of their decision
- Coalition for Energy Savings [position paper](#) on Article 7 of the Energy Efficiency Directive
- Coalition for Energy Savings [briefing](#) on 'Energy efficiency first'

The Coalition for Energy Savings (AISBL) 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, consumer 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 500 associations and 200 companies
- 15 million supporters and more than 2 million employees
- 2,500 cities and towns in 30 countries in Europe