

# Press Release

## Energy Council preparations: 1.5% annual savings cannot be a façade

### EU presidency new compromise text on Energy Efficiency Directive removes substance from annual energy savings requirement

*Brussels, 13 June 2017 – The Coalition for Energy Savings, which represents major stakeholder groups, has expressed its concern to deputy permanent representatives over a text which removes all substance from the European Commission's Energy Efficiency Directive proposal. The text, which has been circulated by the Maltese presidency in preparation for the June Energy Council, would reduce the effect of Article 7, the annual energy savings requirement, by more than 80%, while keeping the 1.5% target as a façade.*

A key element of the Commission's Clean Energy for All Europeans package is the proposal to continue Article 7 of the Energy Efficiency Directive, the annual 1.5% energy savings requirement, beyond 2020. Negotiations at working level have seen Member States grouping themselves in different 'ambition' groups, but the different compromise texts have so far only weakened the proposals, raising the question of whether a deal is within reach.

The text sent to delegations on 9 June in view of the approval of a general approach at the 26 June Energy Council does not address the concerns of a group of Member States led by Germany and France, who have repeatedly questioned the lack of ambition of the subsequent negotiation texts. By creating a range of loopholes and introducing retroactive changes, while maintaining the 1.5% target as a façade, the text would effectively reduce the ambition of the energy savings requirement by more than 80% compared to the Commission's proposals.

"The new text would virtually destroy the effect of the annual energy savings requirement, while keeping the obligation alive, without a comprehensible intention" said Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General of the Coalition for Energy Savings. "Member States should stand up for an Energy Union which creates prospects for citizens and companies, not façade targets".

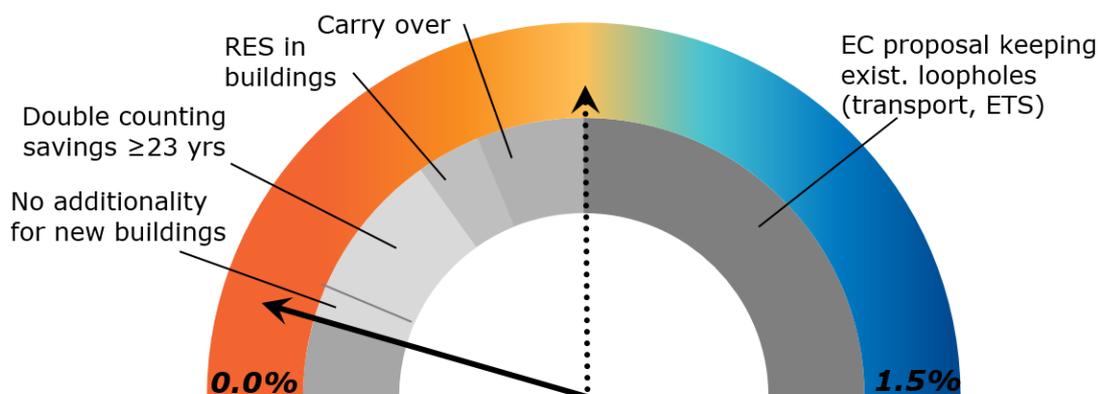
As a multi-stakeholder coalition, uniting 33 European business, civil society, cooperatives, consumer, professional, trade union and local government organisations, the Coalition for Energy Savings calls on the Council to set a binding 40% target and to strengthen Article 7 of the Energy Efficiency Directive, the annual energy savings requirement.

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## Notes for editors

- More suggestions can be found in the Coalition's [position paper](#) on the Clean Energy for All Europeans Package and on the [letter](#) sent to deputy permanent representatives.
- The general approach on the Energy Efficiency Directive dated 9 June proposes a weakening of Article 7 with additional loopholes. The reduction of annual savings by over 80% is a result of:
  - Double counting long-term savings: Allowing counting of savings with lifetimes  $\geq 23$  years from 2014-2020 measures in the 2021-2030 period. According to RAP, the Regulatory Assistance Project, based on data provided by the EED impact assessment 2016, this double counting would deliver **36%** of the savings required in 2021-2030.
  - Carry over: Allowing carryover of excess savings from the period 2014-2020 into the period 2021-2030. According to the national progress reports, most Member States overachieve the minimum savings in 2014-2020 amounting to an excess worth **25%** of the savings in 2021-2030.
  - RES in buildings: Allowing the counting of "renewable energy generated in or on buildings for own use" as energy savings in 2021-2030 of up to **15%** of the savings requirement.
  - No additionality for new buildings: Removing additionality requirement for new buildings - this means that any new building will be counted as delivering new energy savings. According to implementation reports several Member States have already counted savings from building regulations without additionality worth around **6%** of savings required for 2021-2030. This number would grow if such retroactive changes would be accepted and more countries would to start counting implementation of the EPBD as new savings.



**The ambition of article 7 would be reduced by 82% compared to the Commission proposal.**

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, 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