

To: EU Energy Ministers

Brussels, 21 June 2017

**Revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive:
Additional 'flexibilities' will wipe out progress and come at high cost**

Dear Minister,

On 26 June, you will discuss with your colleagues the ambition of energy efficiency policies post-2020. I am writing on behalf of the cities, businesses, consumer associations, cooperatives and NGOs in the Coalition for Energy Savings to express our concern at the direction taken by the Presidency. The additional 'flexibilities' put forward would wipe out current progress in saving energy, put EU's biggest and safest energy resource at risk and drive up costs for businesses and consumers.

A 2030 target set at the right level is vital. A 40% target by 2030 would reflect the cost-effective potential. For every 1% increase in energy savings by 2030¹, there will be a 4% drop in gas imports and over 330,000 new jobs. Pollution control and health costs can be reduced by up to €6 billion per year and greenhouse gas emissions cut by 0.7%. Energy efficiency is the most cost-effective way to address climate change and at the heart of the EU's Energy Union strategy.

The 1.5% annual energy savings requirement in Article 7 of the Energy Efficiency Directive is the main tool to secure progress. It gives Member States a lot of flexibility in implementation. It has led to the creation of local jobs and growth across many sectors and is broadly supported by stakeholders across the EU², including pension funds and asset managers³. Although the majority of the Member States reported a successful delivery of the 1.5% annual savings requirement, some of them have requested the addition of flexibilities, which are essentially loopholes that in sum wipe out a meaningful outcome.

Without ambitious energy efficiency legislation in Europe, investment will go elsewhere, and the EU's leading role in driving a consumer-friendly energy transition and in combating climate change is at stake.

The Coalition for Energy Savings calls on you to prevent this and instead choose a strong and robust energy efficiency outlook, by setting an ambitious and binding target and by fully deploying the 1.5% annual savings after 2020 - without loopholes.

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General

¹ Compared to the European Commission proposed 30% target. Based on the Commission's impact assessment, more information here: <http://energycoalition.eu/Updating-energy-efficiency-legislation-post-2020-working-lunch-european-parliament>

² See for example the statement signed by 21 organisations from 13 Member States: <http://bit.ly/2t2iNt>

³ More information on the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change position here: <http://www.iigcc.org>



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

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, ECOS (The European Environmental Citizens Organisation for Standardisation), Energy Cities, Euroheat & Power (EHP), European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EuroACE), European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE), European Association for the Consumption-based Billing of Energy Costs (EVVE), 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 (ecee), 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, LightingEurope, REScoop, Transport & Environment (T&E) and WWF, as well as advisory members Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE) and Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP).