

Press Release

EU lifts one key barrier for public investments in energy efficiency, easing adoption of ambitious 2030 targets and measures

Brussels, 20 September 2017 – Yesterday, Eurostat published a guidance note on how to record Energy Performance Contracts in government accounts. The new guidance note clarifies and makes it easier for governments to invest in improving the energy efficiency of their buildings and infrastructure by using Energy Performance Contracts. The new rules enable energy efficiency investments to be accounted off government balance sheets, with investment costs spread over the duration of the contract, without contributing to government deficit and debt. The guidance promises to unblock suspended public investment decisions, especially in countries where funds are limited.

“Removing this public investment barrier is a timely and concrete step to bring down energy efficiency investment costs and maximise the benefits of the Energy Union” says Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General of The Coalition for Energy Savings. “We congratulate the European Commission for its leadership in creating an enabling environment for energy efficiency. The market now needs to be kick started with ambitious targets and measures. EU’s legislators will be further encouraged to increase the energy efficiency ambition to 40% by 2030.”

The Energy Efficiency Directive is currently under revision in order to set a 2030 target and post-2020 annual savings requirements. While higher ambition delivers lower energy costs for users, more local jobs and increases energy security, financing the upfront investments costs requires policy efforts. Structural bias against energy efficiency investments, as was the case in public deficit accounting rules, unnecessarily increased the costs. This was in contradiction to the Energy Union’s principle of putting energy efficiency first.

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

Notes for editors

- [Press release](#) and [Q&A](#) from the European Commission
- For more background, see [letter](#) from stakeholders to the European Commission and Coalition’s [position paper](#) on the Clean Energy for All Europeans Package

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, cooperatives, 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, 200 companies, 1,240 cooperatives
- 15 million supporters, more than 2 million employees and 650,000 members of cooperatives
- 2,500 cities and towns in 30 countries in Europe