

Press Release

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Energy Council takes a step back on efficiency ambition

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EU Energy ministers do not stand behind REPowerEU objectives and agree to dilute the European Commission's proposal on the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) recast.

Today, the Energy Council adopted its position - the 'general approach' - on the recast EED. Energy ministers rubber-stamped a text that was agreed, after long negotiations, by Member States' Deputy Permanent Representatives at a meeting last Wednesday, with the expectation of a last minute amendment proposed by Germany.

The general approach substantially weakens the European Commission's EED recast proposal instead of accelerating the delivery of energy savings to put the EU on a path towards energy independence and climate neutrality, in a way that directly benefits consumers and businesses. The disconnect between high-level acknowledgment of the necessity to accelerate the energy transition, and the dismantling of the matching policy tools, particularly the EED, may even jeopardises the achievement of the entire Fit for 55 package's objectives.

“While past timid action on saving energy is one of the root causes of today's energy security crisis, Energy ministers seem to repeat the same old mistakes and do not prioritise energy efficiency enough” says Arianna Vitali, Secretary General of the Coalition for Energy Savings. **“The European Parliament, on the contrary, is moving towards strengthening the Commission's proposal on the Energy Efficiency Directive to cut fossil fuel imports, energy bills and emissions.”** she added.

What is in the EED recast General Approach?

EU ministers:

- confirmed a 2030 energy efficiency target of 9% [1], deferring discussions on a higher level of the target, in line with the REPowerEU's objectives, to trilogues with the European Parliament. In the REPowerEU plan, the Commission proposed an amendment to its July 2021 EED recast proposal to increase the EU 2030 binding energy efficiency target from 9% to 13% (EED recast Article 4).
- watered down the legal status of the EU target compared to the Commission's proposal, by agreeing only to a binding 2030 EU energy efficiency target for final energy, while the crucial target for primary energy has been deprioritised and remains indicative (EED recast Article 4).
- kept national contributions indicative, but clarified that those must be expressed in final energy for the purpose of achieving the EU 2030 binding final energy efficiency target (EED recast Article 4, amendment requested by Germany during the Energy Council).
- took positive steps to ensure that the sum of the Member States' contributions adds up to the 2030 EU energy efficiency target, but this would apply only to the target expressed in final energy (EED recast Article 4).

- weakened the requirement to renovate at least 3% of buildings owned by public bodies every year to nearly-zero energy levels by, among others, giving the possibility to exclude social housing and re-introducing a softer alternative approach to achieve this obligation (EED recast Article 6).
- reduced ambition of the energy savings obligation by only gradually phasing in the increase of the annual final energy consumption objective and by allowing to count energy savings from fossil fuels in the industrial sector (EED recast Article 8, 9 and Annex V).

What are the next steps in the process?

- The Industry, Research & Energy (ITRE) committee of the European Parliament will vote on its draft report on the 13th of July. The rapporteur for the EED recast in the Parliament is MEP Niels Fuglsang (S&D, Denmark).
- The plenary vote on the EED recast is planned for the Strasbourg session of the second week of September (12th to 15th).
- Trilogue negotiations are expected to start under the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU (from the 1st of July 2022 to the 1st of January 2023).

End notes:

[1] The EU energy efficiency target is a reduction of energy consumption compared to projections of energy use in 2030 made with the energy model PRIMES 2020. See [Coalition for Energy Savings: "A guide to the 2030 energy efficiency target"](#)

Notes for editors:

- The webpage of the Energy Council can be accessed [here](#).
- The recordings of the Energy Council can be accessed [here](#).
- The Commission's proposal to amend the Energy Efficiency Directive can be accessed [here](#).
- The Coalition for Energy Savings' position paper on the EED recast can be accessed [here](#).
- The Coalition for Energy Savings' briefing on the 2030 energy efficiency target can be accessed [here](#).

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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, local authorities, energy agencies, energy communities and civil society organisations in pursuit of this goal.

[Coalition members](#) represent:

- more than 500 associations, 200 companies, 1,500 cooperatives
- 15 million supporters and 1 million citizens as members of cooperatives
- 2,500 cities and towns in 30 countries in Europe

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