

To: President Ursula von der Leyen
Cc: Executive Vice-President Teresa Ribera, Executive Vice-President Stéphane Séjourné, Commissioner Dan Jørgensen, Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis

Brussels, 28 September 2026

Subject: A 2040 EU energy efficiency target: the European Union's first line of defence

Dear President von der Leyen,

Energy efficiency is energy independence - reducing Europe's exposure to fossil fuel imports and protecting households and businesses from volatile energy prices and supply shocks.

Energy efficiency is competitiveness - lowering operating costs for European businesses, strengthening industrial resilience and supporting high-quality jobs and manufacturing in Europe.

Energy efficiency is affordability - structurally reducing energy bills and making the clean energy transition more feasible for citizens, businesses and local authorities.

Energy efficiency is climate mitigation and resilience - cutting emissions while making our buildings, industry and the whole energy system better equipped to cope with the negative economic impact of a fast-changing climate.

Ahead of the legislative proposals expected at the end of this year, we, the undersigned industry associations and civil society organisations active at European and national level, call on you to design a post-2030 energy efficiency framework anchored by a 2040 binding EU energy efficiency target to ensure the regulatory stability, predictability and, by extension, the investment necessary to continue delivering the abovementioned benefits.

The EU already has a strong foundation to build on. The current energy efficiency framework has supported an industry employing around 1.2 million people¹ and more than 650 production sites across Europe; it has reduced households' energy bills and delivered substantial energy security benefits: without the efficiency improvements achieved over the past two decades, EU energy consumption would be around 29% higher.² Looking ahead, with the current architecture, the EU's fossil fuel import bill is projected to drop by €33 bn in 2030 and €70 bn by 2040 thanks to energy efficiency gains.³

Energy efficiency is also essential to accelerate and facilitate the energy transition by enabling the EU **to better size generation, grid capacity, storage and other infrastructure - allowing investment to be prioritised and targeted where it is most needed.** By reducing demand and peak loads, efficiency lowers the overall cost of clean energy deployment and makes electrification of buildings, transport and industry faster and more cost-effective. In addition, after this summer's heatwaves, and with cooling demand surging, a combination of passive and active energy efficiency solutions is needed to make our homes more comfortable and resilient, while reducing pressure on the energy system.

This is why energy efficiency, renewables and electrification must advance together; but neither a clean energy target nor an electrification target alone can replace a clear objective to reduce energy demand. **A binding final energy efficiency target for 2040 provides the consistent, long-term signal needed** to unlock investment, strengthen manufacturing and give businesses confidence to develop the skills, capacity and supply chains needed for the next decade. It is also essential to drive national measures that empower citizens to adopt energy efficiency solutions and reap their full benefits.

The post-2030 framework can evolve and improve where needed, particularly to ease implementation. But Europe should preserve what has proven to deliver: clear long-term objectives, translated into stable and predictable legislation enabled by targeted financing.

Energy efficiency is and should remain Europe's first fuel. In this moment of geopolitical instability and turbulence, energy efficiency is the European Union's first line of defence.

We therefore call on the European Commission to enshrine a **binding EU energy efficiency target for 2040** in Europe's post-2030 energy framework, due to be proposed by the end of the year.

We look forward to working with you to make energy efficiency a cornerstone of a more competitive, secure and prosperous European Union.

¹ [World Energy Employment 2024 – International Energy Agency.](#)

² [2025 assessment based on 2023 EU energy consumption data, see Odyssee-Mure project.](#)

³ [Energy Efficiency: A new impetus to reduce energy consumption](#)

Signatories - Logos



INSPRO

ISOL
SUISSE

Johnson
Controls

K-FLEX

Kingspan

KNAUF INSULATION

LABEEF
Latvian Ecu
Energoefektivitātes Fonds
Latvian Building Energy
Efficiency Facility
GUARANTEED SAFETY, HEALTH AND COMFORT™

LIGHTINGEUROPE
THE VOICE OF THE LIGHTING INDUSTRY

MABI

MEHI
HUNGARIAN
ENERGY EFFICIENCY
INSTITUTE

MONTAGGI
& IMPIANTI

münzinger
Dämmsysteme

MWA

nw
ASSOCIATION
négaWatt

NVPU

orgalim

POWER THERM
CONTRACT SERVICES LTD

pswip

PU EUROPE
EXCELLENCE IN INSULATION

Quercus
AN ASSOCIATION OF
EUROPEAN ENERGY EFFICIENCY
EXPERTS

RENOVATE BULGARIA

RENOVATE ITALY

RESCOOP.EU

ROCKWOOL

ROENEF
THE ASSOCIATION FOR
RENOVATING
EUROPEAN BUILDINGS
RENOVATION

SAINT-GOBAIN

schwartmanns

sefa
Sustainable Energy Finance Association

signify

smartEn
SMART ENERGY EUROPE

sn
SYNDICAT NATIONAL DE L'ISOLATION

Solar Heat
Europe

SOLARIMPULSE
FOUNDATION

somfy

Swedisol
Branchenorganisationen für gute Isolierung

SYNERGI

TBR
Insulate+
Services+
Value+
Call+

TECHNO
GEWEBE
www.TECHNO-Gewebe.de

Thermal-Tech

Umweltinstitut
München e.V.

UNION
FOAM

WE Data Europe

WORLD
GREEN
BUILDING
COUNCIL

WWF

zero.

Signatories - Full names

1. Associazione Nazionale Poliuretano Espanso rigido
2. Asociata Producatorilor Si Importatorilor De Vata Minerala Din Romania
3. Armacell
4. Bulgarian Association for Construction Insulation and Waterproofing
5. Bellona Europe
6. Branten Isolatie Technieken
7. Climate Action Network-Europe
8. réseau Cler
9. Client Earth
10. Climate Alliance
11. Climate Strategy & Partners
12. Coalition for Energy Savings
13. The European Association for the Promotion of Cogeneration
14. Danfoss
15. DENEFF
16. Deutscher Naturschutzring
17. Deutsche Umwelthilfe
18. E3G
19. ECODES
20. Ecologistas en accion
21. European Coalition on Standards
22. European Environmental Bureau
23. Efficient Buildings Europe
24. European Geothermal Energy Council
25. European Heat Pump Association
26. European Industrial Insulation Foundation
27. Ekubirojs
28. Electra Energy
29. Energo-fort
30. Energy Efficiency for Europe
31. The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment
32. Etex
33. European Building Automation and Controls Association
34. European Alliance to Save Energy
35. Eurima
36. Eurogypsum
37. Fedarene
38. Syndicat national des Fabricants d'Isolants en Laines Minérales Manufacturées
39. Flandres C2E
40. Friends of the Earth Europe
41. Green Building Council España
42. Glass for Europe
43. Global Cooksafe Coalition
44. Greenpeace
45. Hansgrohe Group

46. IF Isoleringsfirmornas Förening
47. Irish Green Building Council
48. Industrial Services Vicari
49. INSPRO
50. ISOLSUISSE Association des entreprises Suisses d'isolation
51. Johnson Controls
52. K-FLEX GmbH
53. Kingspan
54. Knauf Insulation
55. Latvian Building Energy Efficiency Facility
56. Lighting Europe
57. Building Equipment Manufacturer
58. Hungary Energy Efficiency Institute
59. Montaggi & Impianti
60. Münzinger
61. Mineral Wool Association Benelux
62. négaWatt
63. Nederlandse Vereniging van Polyurethaan hardschuim-fabrikanten
64. Orgalim
65. Powertherm
66. Polish Association of Industrial Insulation Contractors
67. PU Europe
68. Quercus
69. Renovate Bulgaria
70. Renovate Italy
71. REScoop.eu European federation of energy communities
72. Rockwool
73. Asociația pentru promovarea eficienței energetice în clădiri
74. Saint Gobain
75. Schwartmanns Maschinenbau GmbH
76. Sustainable Energy Finance Coalition
77. Signify
78. Smart Energy Europe
79. Syndicat National de l'Isolation
80. Solar Heat Europe
81. Solar Impulse Foundation
82. SOMFY
83. Swedisol
84. Synergi
85. TBR
86. TECHNO-Gewebe Vajen GmbH
87. Thermal-Tech Sp. z o.o.
88. Umweltinstitut München
89. Union Foam
90. WE Data Europe
91. World Green Building Council
92. WWF
93. Zero