

Brussels, 18 October 2011

Herman Van Rompuy
President of the European Council
Rue de la Loi 175
B-1048 Brussels

Dear Mr President,

A strong energy savings policy is central to Europe's economic recovery

The Coalition for Energy Savings, representing 23 business, professional and civil society organisations, wishes to share with you its serious concern over the direction the debate on the draft Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) is taking in the Council. Instead of welcoming the draft EED for providing Europe with an opportunity to kick-start the economic recovery and tap into the numerous benefits of energy savings, many governments are simply criticizing it for being burdensome and costly. If the discussion continues this way, it could have serious repercussions for the Europe 2020 strategy, as well as Europe's energy future.

We firmly believe that the cheapest, safest and cleanest energy is the energy Europe doesn't use. We also believe today's difficult economic and financial situation makes the case for a strong energy savings policy even more compelling. Meeting Europe's 20% energy saving target, as agreed in 2007 and re-confirmed by the Europe 2020 strategy, will create up to 2 million new jobs, reduce energy import costs by an annual €50 billion and cut energy bills by an annual €200 billion in 2020¹.

Moreover, at a moment when unity in the EU is crucial to facing global challenges such as the economic crisis, strong and intelligent EU-wide legislation can be a powerful force in generating a collective response. Energy efficiency and savings are precisely the type of policy area that would benefit from European-wide norms, market signals, investment and sharing of best practice, which a well-designed EED can promote.

Our Coalition is therefore very concerned by the negative reactions of many Member States to the Commission's proposal for an EED. Having rejected binding national targets – which analysis from the European Commission shows are necessary to deliver the 20% savings – many Member States are now also opposing the binding measures they were supposedly favouring, such as the public building renovation target and the energy supplier obligations.

Later this month, you will convene a meeting of Heads of State and Government that will focus on measures to enhance economic growth. We urge you to guide them to explicitly put energy savings at the heart of Europe's economic growth and recovery plans, and to reference this important connection in the conclusions of the meeting.

We further urge you to reverse the trend of the debate to ensure Europe gets a strong EED that will deliver on its promises. Unfortunately the measures in the European Commission's draft directive are likely to only achieve two thirds of the 20% target. As we know you appreciate, missing this target means missing out on hundreds of thousands of new jobs, billions of Euros of cost savings and the chance to make Europe a global leader in efficiency technologies and practices. This Directive urgently requires strengthening – not further

¹ Energy Efficiency Plan COM(2011)109 final

weakening. A clear political commitment from Europe's leaders is necessary to ensure investment security and deliver the major social, financial and environmental advantages of energy savings.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to explain our concerns and solutions in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General



Members of the Coalition for Energy Savings:

The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE)
Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE)
ClientEarth
Climate Action Network – Europe (CAN-Europe)
The Climate Group
COGEN Europe
The European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EuroACE)
European Alliance for Saving Energy (EU-ASE)
European Association of Polyurethane Insulation Manufacturers (PU Europe)
The European Climate Foundation
The European Committee of Domestic Equipment Manufacturers (CECED)
European Copper Institute
The European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (eceee)
European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
The European Federation for Intelligent Energy Efficiency Services (EFIEES)
The European Insulation Manufacturers Association (Eurima)
European Lamp Companies Federation (ELCF)
The European Liaison Committee For Social Housing (CECODHAS)
Friends of the Earth Europe
Glass for Europe
The Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)
The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
WWF

The Coalition for Energy Savings brings together business, professional and civil society associations. The Coalition's purpose is to make the case for a European energy policy that places a much greater, more meaningful emphasis on energy efficiency and savings. In particular it is arguing for the current 20% energy efficiency target to be binding.

A copy of this letter has also been sent to Prime Ministers Tusk and Thorning-Schmidt.