

Achieving the 20% energy savings target: time to turn promises into action

Dear Minister,

This Thursday, April 19th, during the informal meeting of Energy Ministers in Horsens, you will be discussing the draft Energy Efficiency Directive. We urge you to reconsider your current collective position on this legislative proposal – which guarantees Europe will not achieve its 20% by 2020 energy savings target. We call upon you to turn promises into actions and to ensure Europe embraces the benefits of energy savings.

The European Council agreed on the 20% energy saving target in March 2007, stating that: “**The European Council is [...] confident that a substantive development of energy efficiency [...] will enhance energy security, curb the projected rise in energy prices and reduce greenhouse gas emissions**”¹. However, no binding target was set for energy efficiency – unlike the EU’s greenhouse gas and renewable energy targets. Consequently, at current rates of progress the 20% target will be missed by half.

In February 2011 the Council concluded that “**The 2020 20% energy efficiency target [...], which is presently not on track, must be delivered**”². The draft Directive on Energy Efficiency, released by the Commission in June 2011, is supposed to close this ‘savings gap’. Yet as the Council begins official negotiations on the Directive with the European Parliament and the Commission, the **principal objective of most Member States seems to be to ensure that they have to do as little as possible:**

- **Most Member States reject a binding 20% energy savings target**, despite experience and independent analysis showing this to be the best solution. Many Member States wish to define their own national targets based on the methodology of their choice. However, their own reports to the Commission (their National Reform Programmes from 2011) prove that national policies will not meet the 20% target.
- A central measure of the draft Directive is a proposal to set an annual 1.5% savings obligation – covering two thirds of final energy use – for energy producers and distributors. **Member States are seeking to reduce the scope of the target and to lower the 1.5% ambition level** by, for example, crediting savings made *before* the implementation of the Directive.
- **A target to renovate Europe’s building stock is key to reducing energy consumption.** But most Member States are opposing the Parliament’s proposals to specify comprehensive (deep) retrofits of buildings and to develop national renovation roadmaps. They are also pushing through amendments to limit the scope of the renovation target: many wish the Directive to cover only ‘Central Government Authorities’. In Germany, for instance, this translates to only 25 or so properties.

Whittling away every Article of the Directive will help no-one except the fossil fuel exporters that benefit from Europe’s energy wastefulness. As Ministers, **you cannot continue to support the benefits resulting from energy savings while – with a few exceptions – opposing the policy measures that would lead us there.**

¹ European Council, 8/9 March 2007

² European Council, 4 February 2011

Meeting the 20% savings target will lead to net savings of €100 billion per year – a great asset in times of constricted government budgets. It will bring the European Union’s energy import dependency back down to 1990 levels and create up to 2 million new jobs by 2020. Most importantly, it will allow us to get on track for making 80-95% greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2050. Investments will quickly become self-financing.

The 20% by 2020 energy savings target must be achieved. It is time for you as ministers to intervene: to push for a binding 20% energy savings target, to ensure a robust 1.5% annual savings obligation, to ensure deep renovation of buildings and to develop national renovation roadmaps. This will support the Danish Presidency in achieving a Directive that delivers the tangible benefits energy savings will bring for Europe’s citizens and the environment.



Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-E) is recognised as Europe's leading network working on climate and energy issues. With 152 member organisations in 25 European countries, CAN-E works to prevent dangerous climate change and promote sustainable energy and environment policy in Europe. www.climnet.org/

CDM Watch is an initiative of international NGOs which seeks to provide an independent perspective on individual CDM projects and the political decision-making process affecting wider carbon market developments. CDM Watch has network partners around the world and is legally hosted by the German NGO Forum Environment & Development. www.cdm-watch.org/

CECED (European Committee of Domestic Equipment Manufacturers) promotes the industry's mission to increase the performance while reducing the environmental impact of the appliances. www.ceced.org

ClientEarth is an organisation of activist lawyers committed to securing a healthy planet and bringing together law, science and policy to create pragmatic solutions to key environmental challenges. www.clientearth.org/

The Climate Group is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, working internationally with government and business leaders to advance smart policies and technologies to cut global emissions and accelerate a low carbon economy. www.theclimategroup.org/

Concerned Citizens Against Climate Change was established by three University professors in the Netherlands and aims to circulate the international appeal against global warming, and thus to mobilize citizens and exert pressure on world leaders to take effective and prompt action against it. www.stopwarming.eu/

Energy Cities is the European Association of local authorities inventing their energy future. The association was created in 1990 and represents more than 1,000 towns and cities in 30 countries. www.energy-cities.eu/

Eurima (European Insulation Manufacturers Association) represents the interests of all major mineral wool producers throughout Europe. Its mission is to create a favourable business environment for mineral wool insulation, by promoting the common interests of this industry and working for positive regulations and standards. www.eurima.org

The European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, ECEEE, is a non-profit, membership-based European NGO. Its goal is to stimulate energy efficiency through information exchange and co-operation and to assist its target groups – from policy makers to programme designers to practitioners – to make energy efficiency happen. www.eceee.org/

EEB (The European Environmental Bureau) is the largest federation of environmental citizens' organisations in Europe with over 150 member organisations. Its aim is to protect and improve the environment of Europe and to enable the citizens of Europe to play their part in achieving that goal. www.eeb.org

The **European Alliance to Save Energy** was established in December 2012 by some of Europe's leading multinational companies (Danfoss, Philips, Schneider Electric, Knauf Insulation, Siemens and 1E). The Alliance creates a platform from which our companies can join with politicians and thought leaders to ensure the voice of energy efficiency is heard from across the business and political community. <http://www.euase.com/>

The **European Lamp Companies Federation (ELCFED)** includes companies accounting for 95% of European lamp production, including Philips Lighting, Osram GmbH, GE Lighting, Havells Sylvania, Aura Light, Venture Lighting Europe Ltd, Verbatim, Dr. Fischer Group, LightTech, BLV Licht- und Vakuumtechnik GmbH and NARVA Lichtquellen GmbH + Co. KG. www.elcfed.org/

Friends of the Earth Europe is the largest grassroots environmental network in Europe, uniting 30 national organisations with thousands of local groups. We are the European arm of Friends of the Earth International which unites 76 national member organisations, some 5,000 local activist groups, and over two million supporters around the world. [www.foeeurope.org\](http://www.foeeurope.org/)

PU-Europe is the European association representing the polyurethane insulation industry. Polyurethane insulation helps to save energy in a wide variety of applications in buildings, district heating, cooling and refrigeration, and industrial systems. www.pu-europe.eu

WWF is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organisations, with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption. www.wwf.eu