



Brussels, 23 July 2008

Energy Efficiency Associations' Joint Letter to EU Energy Commissioner

To: Mr Andris Piebalgs, European Commission, Commissioner for Energy
CC: Mr Christopher Jones, Ms Pirjo-Liisa Koskimäki, Ms Stina Soewarta, Mr Matthias Ruete, Mr Juan Moreno-Acedo

Dear Commissioner Piebalgs,

The above associations, strongly active in promoting energy efficiency products and services, would like to draw your attention to the European Parliament Resolution of 9 July 2008 on the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (2008/2005(INI)) which urges the European Commission to have energy efficiency fully supported by the plan. We note particularly paragraph 30, where the European Parliament:

“Insists that energy efficiency should figure more prominently in the SET-Plan, since it is the area with the most potential for cost effective emission reductions in the medium term”.

We strongly support the European Parliament in this view, and highlight to the Commission the urgent need to have energy efficiency clearly included in the Energy and Climate Package as a whole.

There is a risk that energy efficiency will become too detached from the main thought process of the Energy and Climate package and thus may be downgraded to a secondary role in tackling the energy challenge. The Parliament recognises this. The disappointing lack of ambition in National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (2007) further reinforces the point. The plans show little sense of urgency or priority despite the almost constant policy and media focus on energy. There is still only slow progress in Member States both on completing and on enforcing the body of policy which currently seeks to promote energy efficiency.

The energy efficiency sector has been active in helping develop policy in this area, and we recognise the very real challenges of achieving change. We also recognise and welcome the additional resources recently made available in the Energy Efficiency Unit in DG TREN, and expect that this will have an impact in the near term. We hope that these additional resources will shortly be able to transform into concrete action the Commission's intentions to improve energy efficiency.

Many industries have already committed considerable resources in product development and communication in preparation for positioning their industry in the energy efficiency challenge. Senior management support has been harnessed and serious money invested. The associations and the industries we represent would like to see a similar level of ambition across the EU and believe that, given the seriousness of the issue, the Commission should:

- 1) Seek to adopt a mandatory measurable target for improving energy efficiency of 20% by 2020 to signal the importance of energy efficiency measures for security of energy supply, economic growth and environmental protection;**
- 2) Establish a coordinated investment and incentives initiative for improving energy efficiency across all sectors;**
- 3) Show strong commitment to full and timely implementation of existing legislation on energy efficiency.**

The members of our associations have the technology, resources and ability to deliver sustained improvements in energy efficiency across the EU. We ask the Commission to follow through on its own strategy, and to deliver leadership and commitment in energy efficiency.

Yours sincerely,

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