



EUROPE'S BIGGEST STRATEGIC ENERGY RESERVE – ITS BUILDINGS

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso,
Members of the European Commission,

A massive opportunity to strike a blow for climate protection is approaching. Under your direction, the review of the European Union's Energy Performance of Buildings Directive could be the chance to transform buildings **from energy wasters to climate savers**.

Europe's buildings account for 40% of EU final energy use. Simple and cost effective energy efficiency measures like better insulation, glazing and more efficient lighting could deliver savings equivalent to 500 million cubic meters of gas per day. This is three and a half times more energy than the planned Nord Stream Gas Pipeline between Russia and Germany will provide.

Investment in better buildings will bring other benefits besides increased security.

- **Massive economic savings** - With oil prices at \$100 dollars a barrel, the EU stands to gain 385 billion euro a year in energy savings - more than the Gross Domestic Product of Belgium.
- **Boosting jobs in Europe** - Investments in energy efficiency in buildings will deliver hundreds of thousands of new jobs.
- **Reaching climate objectives** - Reducing emissions from buildings is essential to reach the EU target of a 20-30% cut of greenhouse gases by 2020: buildings' reduction potential is more than the EU's total Kyoto commitments and almost twice the target for the EU Effort Sharing proposal.

The signatories to this open letter call on the European Commission to present an ambitious proposal for the recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

We request:

- when buildings undergo major renovation, that minimum energy performance requirements are met and this should apply to **all existing buildings** and not only buildings with an area greater than 1000m²,
- a strengthened role for the "**energy performance certificate**", which ranks buildings on the basis of energy efficiency,
- **an obligation on Member States to move towards very low-energy buildings** for the existing stock and to even stricter standards for new buildings by 2015,
- current and future **minimum energy performance requirements** set in line with the targets of the EU Climate Change and Energy Package.

The EU must not miss this opportunity to decrease dependence on foreign energy supply. Show Europe's citizens how Europe can start winning on climate change, winning on job creation and winning on saving money in the family budget.

Yours sincerely,

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