Proposal for a Directive on Energy Efficiency

Transitioning to a new energy paradigm

Energy efficiency must play an important role in the transition to a new energy model, aiming to achieve a safe, secure, sustainable and affordable energy use and energy supply for all. Saving energy is the quickest, cheapest and most direct way to address our urgent economic, social and environmental challenges.

Although European leaders have recognized the importance of tapping the potential for energy savings in existing buildings (Energy Council of Feb 2011, Low Carbon Roadmap 2011), limited concrete action has so far been taken. We believe that the new Directive on Energy Efficiency is a unique opportunity to deliver on this front, provided its ambition is upgraded and its scope is widened.

Guiding principles for a realistic change

A realistic and cost-effective move toward an energy-efficient Europe must follow these elements:

- It must take a holistic and long-term approach, including both demand-side and supply-side solutions, but focusing first on those areas with the biggest potential;
- It must contribute to the recovery of the EU economy by demonstrating that economic growth and energy consumption can be decoupled;
- It must take into account the urgent need for job creation and the significant employment effects of investments in energy efficiency;
- It must foresee ambitious but cost-effective actions (taking into account and dealing with the current financial constraints).

Where can the proposal bring added value?

Buildings represent 40% of the EU's final energy use, and 36% of its CO2 emissions. They offer an unrivalled opportunity to create good quality jobs that cannot be off shored, whilst helping to kick-start economic recovery. To fully tap this potential, current provisions must be strengthened in three key areas:

- **Beyond public buildings:** The public sector can offer an important starting point for the renovation of the built environment but we must go beyond public buildings and ensure that the Directive also tackles the majority of the built environment, non-public buildings.

- **National renovation road maps:** As a step towards engaging non-public buildings, Member States should be required to develop national roadmaps to deliver the energy efficiency renovation of the entire building stock.

- **Financing:** In a time of major financial difficulties it is critical that this Directive ensures that Member States develop schemes that can help provide individuals with the needed upfront finance to make energy efficiency measures possible. For example, the energy saving obligations placed on energy suppliers could be used for the creation of national energy efficiency funds and the allocation of adequate EU funds, to reach these targets.

The goal: energy consumption of the building stock to be reduced by 80% by 2050

Eurima proposes that the Directive addresses the existing EU building stock as a whole, and traces an ambitious yet realistic and cost-effective path towards an end to energy waste in this sector, by fixing a long-term target of an 80% reduction of the energy consumption of the EU building stock by 2050, contributing also to massive job creation and to the re-launch of the economy.