

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Energy efficiency: No Leadership, No Vision, No Benefits... just Politics

“POLITICAL BARGAINING MAKES EU LEADERS MISS AN HISTORICAL OPPORTUNITY TO REACH AN AMBITIOUS, LONG-TERM ENERGY EFFICIENCY COMMITMENT” SAY INSULATION MANUFACTURERS

Eurima, the European Insulation Manufacturers Association, expressed its dismay over today’s European Council decision to adopt a weak indicative target of “at least 27%” increase of energy efficiency.

“It is mind-boggling” said Jan te Bos, Director-General of Eurima “to see how our leaders have missed a historic opportunity to show leadership, vision and ambition. Instead, they have decided to hide behind short-term national interests and to continue doing business in the past, rather than in the future. Considering the multiple crises we face, this is outrageous”.

Eurima struggles to understand the economic, political or social rationale behind such a low-level of ambition on energy efficiency, at a time in which Europe is likely on the brink of an acute energy security crisis, the economic recovery shows once again signs of stalling and millions of vulnerable consumers are facing an increasing risk of fuel poverty,

“While many EU countries have not ensured their resilience to possible energy supply shortages this winter” continued te Bos, “EU leaders have chosen to ignore such an obvious, economically sound and durable solution as saving energy, and instead to continue spending more than €1 billion per day on importing energy from third countries. I wonder how this decision can be explained to citizens.”

Now the ball is in the court of the European Commission, which will have to respond to the European Council’s mandate to propose priority sectors where significant energy-efficiency gains can be reaped, and to focus regulatory and financial efforts on them. In this regard, several Commission Members (including its President) have publicly called for ambitious action on energy efficiency, particularly in the building sector.

“Eurima calls on the newly established Commission” concluded te Bos “to immediately promote ambitious policies on buildings, which is by far the sector offering greatest potential for energy savings - 61% by 2030. A real strategy for the deep renovation of our existing buildings is the true engine for growth, jobs, security and wellbeing that EU citizens are waiting for!”

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Background Information

Eurima

Eurima is the European Insulation Manufacturers Association, representing the interests of all major mineral wool insulation producers throughout Europe. Eurima members employ over 21,000 people across Europe with the installation of insulation products accounting for an estimated 300,000 man-years.

Eurima members manufacture mineral wool insulation products. These products are used in residential and commercial buildings as well as industrial facilities. Glass and stone wool insulation secure a high level of comfort, low energy costs and minimised CO₂ emissions. Mineral wool insulation prevents heat loss through roofs, walls, floors, pipes and boilers, reduces noise pollution and protects homes and industrial facilities from the risk of fire.

For further information on energy efficiency in buildings, please visit www.eurima.org or contact:

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