Letter to the Editor, European Voice

Re: From Gigawatt to Negawatt. Rethinking our thinking

A crucial element of the energy debate was alarmingly conspicuous by its absence from your otherwise solid report on the EU’s energy needs (EV, 28 October): Energy efficiency and savings.

A lot could be achieved with a change of mindset. Saving energy is an important energy resource in its own right. It is worrying to see that energy efficiency and savings is still given such a low profile in mainstream discussions of energy options.

This oversight reflects a wider deficit of both awareness and prioritisation of energy efficiency and its many advantages within the wider European energy debate. With the Energy Infrastructure Priorities and other energy initiatives in development, it is vital that policymakers appreciate the importance of energy efficiency and savings as the starting point for an overall energy policy for Europe.

The Coalition for Energy Savings, an unprecedented gathering of business, professional and civil society organisations, is calling for a much stronger, more meaningful emphasis on energy efficiency and savings in European energy policy.

The benefits are significant: energy efficiency is the cleanest, safest, most cost-effective energy source available to us. If used to its full potential it provides energy security, fights climate change, combats fuel poverty and creates jobs. In a nutshell, energy efficiency must come first.

The EU is currently developing its energy policy in advance of the EU Energy summit which takes place on 4th February 2011. Energy efficiency and savings must be one of the drivers of policy for this important meeting. Our Coalition would welcome if European Voice would support our efforts and ensure in the future that this key message gets through.

Best regards,

The Coalition for Energy Savings

Members:

1. Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE)
2. Climate Action Network - Europe (CAN-Europe)
3. The European Liaison Committee For Social Housing (CECODHAS)
4. ClientEarth
5. COGEN Europe
6. European Copper Institute
7. European Lamp Companies Federation (ELCF)
8. European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ECEEE)
9. EU Corporate Leaders Group on Climate Change (EUCLG)
10. European Insulation Manufacturers Association (Eurima)
11. The European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EuroACE)
12. The European Climate Foundation (ECF)
13. European Committee of Domestic Equipment Manufacturers (CECED)
14. European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
15. Glass for Europe
16. PU Europe
17. Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
18. The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE)
19. The Climate Group
20. World Wildlife Fund (WWF)