

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Member States to reveal plans for 1.5% annual energy savings

Major implementation deadline of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive

BRUSSELS, 5 December 2013 – Today marks the deadline for EU Member States to report to the European Commission their plans for how they will achieve 1.5% new energy savings every year from 2014 to 2020. These 1.5% savings are a central requirement of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) and will help to achieve the EU’s 20% efficiency target for 2020.

According to an assessment by the Coalition for Energy Savings this requirement will secure a reduction of energy consumption by at least 5.3% in 2020, lowering customers’ energy bills and avoiding the wasteful consumption of 60 million tons of oil equivalents (Mtoe), nearly the level of Poland’s annual energy use. If exemptions provided in the EED are not be used, the savings could double.

"Achieving the 1.5% new energy savings target each year is essential to meeting the EU’s 2020 energy efficiency target, but it will require significant additional efforts in all countries. In most cases new measures and programmes, including supplier obligations, will have to be introduced”, said Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General of the Coalition for Energy Savings.

"But there is a real risk that countries may try to exaggerate the savings expected, in particular from taxation, or try to count savings from unrelated measures in order to avoid new efforts,” Stefan Scheuer adds. “Full EU scrutiny and strict enforcement will therefore be essential.”

Guidance from the European Commission, which was published last month, backs a strict interpretation of the EED rules for the eligibility of measures and the calculation of savings. It makes it clear that Member States can only count measures that are specifically aimed at improving energy efficiency and that go beyond EU minimum efficiency requirements, such as those for products under the Ecodesign Directive or standards for buildings and cars.

The EED provides details for efficiency obligations schemes for energy suppliers or distributors as the default means for delivering the 1.5% target. Ten countries currently have such schemes in place and several others are in the planning. However, a broad mix of measures and well financed programmes will be needed to reach the required level of new energy savings, including public support schemes for households and building renovation, public procurement, financing facilities, new building codes, energy audits, information campaigns and investments in an efficient mobility infrastructure.

To support stakeholders and Member States with implementation of the EED, the Coalition has developed a Guidebook for Strong Implementation, which provides easy and comprehensive access to the legislation, recommendations and good practices. While the 5 December marks the passing of a major implementation deadline, other deadlines will span over the next 2 years in relation to other key requirements of this legislation.

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The Coalition for Energy Savings brings together business, professionals, local authorities, trade unions and civil society associations. The Coalition’s purpose is to make the case for a European energy policy that places a much greater, more meaningful emphasis on energy efficiency and savings. Coalition members represent more than 400 associations, 150 companies, 15 million supporters, more than 2 million employees, 1,000 cities and towns in 30 countries in Europe.

1 Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and UK