FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Is the Commission giving up on saving energy?

A meaningless target would ignore the energy security crisis

Brussels, 19 June 2014 – The Coalition for Energy Savings understands that President Barroso and Commissioner Oettinger are leaning toward a non-binding and weak energy savings target to be included in the 2030 climate and energy package. The suggested level, 27%, means that there will be no additional effort from Member States on capturing the huge, cost-effective potential locked up in energy efficiency in the period up to 2030, condemning the economy to an extended period of morosity.

“This cannot be called a target because it would not drive policies. It would drive underperformance on climate, energy security, local jobs, comfort and productivity,” said Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General of the Coalition for Energy Savings. “If this is confirmed, the Commission would have failed both in its duties and in meeting the challenge posed by the European Council of improving energy security.”

Despite on-going concerns over energy security, and the clear call of Heads of State to the Commission to propose solutions, the EU would, with this meaningless level of ambition on energy savings, miss the opportunity to significantly reduce gas imports. A 40% target would allow gas imports to be reduced by 40%, an amount larger than current imports from Russia. This is shown by the Commission’s own assessment, which has been circulated outside the Commission’s services, and designed to accompany its upcoming communications on energy efficiency.

Several Member States, as well as Energy Commissioner Oettinger himself, recently spoke in favour of a binding target, as a solution to the EU’s energy dependence concerns.

The Coalition for Energy Savings is calling for a binding 40% target, a call supported by an increasing number of stakeholders and backed by recent opinion polls.

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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.

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Notes for editors
Letter from seven Member States calling for a proposal on a binding energy efficiency target for 2030 in light of the forthcoming EED review in July 2014:

Commissioner Oettinger’s statement supporting a binding target for energy savings 2030:
http://www.euractiv.com/sections/energy/eu-signals-binding-energy-savings-target-september-302497

Public support for binding EU-wide action on renewable energy and energy efficiency in Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia: