Dear President Barroso,

Energy efficiency has been a key driver of investment and growth in the EU – and is critical to ensuring that Europe’s businesses remain globally competitive in the face of rising energy prices. To date Europe has shown leadership in the area of energy efficiency, but other regions are catching up. More, not less, now needs to be done to improve the efficiency of the energy Europe uses as part of the 2030 Climate and Energy Package.

The International Energy Agency has said that energy efficiency is Europe’s first fuel, yet emerging reports on what can be expected from the upcoming Communication on the Energy Efficiency Directive Review clearly does not draw enough attention to the benefits of energy efficiency nor set the necessary targets to profit from energy savings across the EU.

During 2010-2020 it is expected that 20% energy saving will be delivered; to then move in the coming decade to lower ambition on energy efficiency makes no sense in particular in light of Europe’s energy security and climate change concerns.

A clear signal is now needed from the European Commission that efforts to curb energy use will be a core part of the climate and energy strategy. Setting an ambitious and effective energy savings target, which focuses among other things on demand reduction and management opportunities in particular in the non ETS sectors, is the clearest way to achieve this.

Adopting a stable long term legislative framework, which takes adequate consideration of the role of energy efficiency in ensuring our competitiveness and emissions objectives is important for businesses such as ourselves to plan investment cycles and stimulate jobs and growth in Europe.

We therefore urge you to release an Energy Efficiency Communication that ensures our energy security and climate change goals are met as soon as possible and that cost-effective energy savings are delivered across Europe by 2030.

Brussels, 17 July 2014
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