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EU leaders: No more excuses to waste energy

Saving energy could reduce gas consumption to amounts at least equivalent to imports from Russia

Brussels, 19 March 2014 – In a letter to Heads of State and Government, the Coalition for Energy Savings urged leaders to make energy efficiency a priority in the 2030 climate and energy package to ensure Europe’s long-term energy security. The letter was sent ahead of tomorrow’s summit which will be dominated by concerns about the EU’s competitiveness and by events in Ukraine.

“40% end-use energy savings by 2030 as requested by the European Parliament could reduce gas consumption to amounts at least equivalent to imports from Russia,” said Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General of the Coalition for Energy Savings. “Yet the European Commission put energy efficiency on the backburner in its 2030 proposals released in January. We urge EU leaders to stop giving excuses for wasting energy and to ask the European Commission to propose a binding energy savings target for 2030.”

A binding energy savings target for 2030 is needed to unlock potentials and trigger investments in energy efficiency improvements which make economic sense – thus boosting the economy, significantly reducing energy imports and addressing climate concerns.

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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. [http://energycoalition.eu](http://energycoalition.eu)

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Note for editors

- The letter can be downloaded on: [http://bit.ly/OwS1Jg](http://bit.ly/OwS1Jg)
- According to Fraunhofer ISI, the EU could save at least 40% of its overall final energy demand by 2030 if it made all the cost-effective efficiency improvements in heat, electricity and transport consumption across all sectors. Realising those savings would reduce gas consumption by 95 Mtoe gas at the end-use level, mainly because of reduced heat losses, not taking into account possible fuel switches. This compares to 98 Mtoe of natural gas imported from Russia in 2011 (Eurostat). Substantial additional gas savings will result from saving electricity, however the exact amount will depend on the development of the energy mix and the role of gas.