EU Parliament stands firm on 40% energy efficiency target for 2030

Clear request to European Commission: Parliament’s resolution calls for a binding energy efficiency target

STRAISBOURG / BRUSSELS, 5 February 2014 – Today, the European Parliament adopted a resolution calling for an ambitious and binding 40% energy efficiency target together with binding greenhouse gas and renewable energy targets for the EU’s 2030 climate and energy policy framework, as long advocated for by the Coalition for Energy Savings.

"The European Parliament takes the leadership by putting energy savings on top of the EU energy and climate agenda for 2030, encouraging a wavering Commission to make decisive steps in the coming months", said Jan te Bos, Chairman of the Coalition for Energy Savings and Director General of EURIMA, the European Insulation Manufacturers Association. "It recognises that the EU has to capture its huge energy saving potentials, to reduce energy costs, create local jobs, and address long-term competitiveness and climate concerns – all at the same time”.

Today's signal from elected representatives is crucial as energy efficiency improvements are expected to slow down after 2020, further widening the gap to the cost-effective energy saving potentials, unless fundamental market and policy reforms are put in place. Improving energy efficiency by 40% by 2030 is not only achievable but also highly profitable for the EU economy. Research by the Fraunhofer Institute in 2013 has shown that the EU has a 41% cost-effective end-use energy savings potential for 2030. Tapping the potential would boost competitiveness and lower net energy costs for households and industry by over €239 billion annually by 2030.

"The three binding targets approach voted today is a clear message to the European Commission to stop rolling policies backwards and not to subordinate renewable and efficiency policies to a weak greenhouse gas target”, said Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General for the Coalition for Energy Savings.

This popular vote should inspire the European Commission, who said it would clarify its plans after the review of the Energy Efficiency Directive in July, to propose robust energy efficiency targets for 2020 and 2030.

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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


