

Press Release

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Weak and Unambitious: The Commission's Communication on Energy Efficiency sends "a very bad signal to business" *say Mineral Wool insulation manufacturers*

Eurima, the European Insulation Manufacturers Association, was shocked by the European Commission's decision today to ignore the huge benefits that energy efficiency can deliver for Europe and its businesses.

"This Communication is a triple disappointment to us" said Jan te Bos, Director-General of Eurima "we were hoping that the Commission would come forward with a proposal for an ambitious, binding energy savings target which would position building renovation as a cornerstone for action". Instead, the paper leaves the binding character of the target in the hands of Member States, to be decided at the October European Council, and proposes a 30 % target which does not go beyond "business as usual", and lacks any explicit proposal for the building sector.

The lack of ambition is particularly inexplicable if one takes into account that the Commission's own impact assessment clearly showed that a minimum of a 35% target is needed for Europe to drive growth, jobs and protect European energy security. "One has to wonder why the European Commission bothers to carry out impact assessments, if they then choose to ignore them" continued Jan te Bos.

"The lack of any concrete measures in the building sector is particularly regrettable" continued te Bos "as this sector has repeatedly been recognized by the European Commission as the key area for action in this field".

The ball is now in the Member States' court, which will decide on targets and policies for the EU framework on Climate & Energy toward 2030 in the European Council in October. Heads of State and Government recognised last March that energy efficiency policies must be a priority to address the compelling challenge of energy security. At the same time, newly elected Commission President Juncker expressed his willingness to adopt an ambitious, binding energy savings target beyond the 30% proposed today.

According to Eurima, the current Commission has therefore not succeeded in providing a level of ambition that reflects the much needed vision and leadership in this area. It's now up to the new Commission President Mr Juncker and to Member States to show such leadership and move Europe forwards towards a more competitive and energy secure future".

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Background Information

Eurima

Eurima is the European Insulation Manufacturers Association, representing the interests of all major mineral wool insulation producers throughout Europe. Eurima members employ over 21,000 people across Europe with the installation of insulation products accounting for an estimated 300,000 man-years.

Eurima members manufacture mineral wool insulation products. These products are used in residential and commercial buildings as well as industrial facilities. Glass and stone wool insulation secure a high level of comfort, low energy costs and minimised CO₂ emissions. Mineral wool insulation prevents heat loss through roofs, walls, floors, pipes and boilers, reduces noise pollution and protects homes and industrial facilities from the risk of fire.

For further information on energy efficiency in buildings, please visit www.eurima.org or contact:

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