

Press Release

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Buildings hold the key to energy security in Europe

NEW STUDY BY ECOFYS OUTLINES THE ENORMOUS POTENTIAL OF EUROPE'S NOT-SO-SECRET WEAPON FOR ENERGY SECURITY

The consultancy firm Ecofys issued today a study which shows that buildings hold the key to unlocking Europe's energy woes. According to the report, commissioned by Eurima -the European Insulation Manufacturers Association- **buildings use a significant 61% of all imported gas and a deep renovation programme across Europe could reduce the sector's energy imports by over 60% by 2030 and 100% by 2050.**

The study was launched on the eve of a major conference organized by President Barroso to discuss the possible elements of a European Energy Security Strategy on the request of EU Heads of States in the March European Council.

"Europe's leaders have clearly called for moderation of energy demand as the most obvious answer to address EU's energy security concerns" said Jan te Bos, Director General of Eurima "It is now the duty of the European Commission to look in the right places for cost-effective, credible and durable solutions. This report is clear: **the EU needs to look closer to home. Buildings are Europe's biggest gas reserve!**"

The report also shows that the deep renovation of the building stock is the cheapest and quickest way to reduce the EU's dependency on imports when compared to other options such as nuclear energy, coal, shale gas or even more "shallow renovations". In fact, many of these options are less effective, create new import dependencies, require a very long time before being operational on a large scale, provide fewer societal benefits, and are more expensive - both in the short and the long term.

"Energy dependence is possibly the biggest political, economic and social challenge the EU will be facing in the years to come" continued te Bos "the problem is both urgent and important: we must therefore be wise and concentrate on solutions -such as the deep renovation of the building stock- offering the biggest potential for quickly reducing imports with immediately available technology."

The European Commission's EU energy security plan is due in June. A new Energy Efficiency Framework is being drafted on request of the European Council. Eurima is calling on the Commission to scale up the level of ambition regarding buildings renovation and adopt a sectoral target for buildings as a tool to provide regulatory stability and to ensure the achievement of an overall energy efficiency target.

ENDS

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 20,000 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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