

Press Release

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European Commissioners shy away from much-needed 2030 vision on energy efficiency

JUNE 2014 EED REVIEW LAST CHANCE TO CORRECT COURSE

“By deciding not to propose a binding energy efficiency target in its 2030 Climate & Energy Package the EU Commission has chosen a short-sighted business-as-usual approach that will fail to deliver long-term competitiveness and sustainable growth in the EU” says Eurima, the European Insulation Manufacturers Association.

The European Commission recognises that “no transition towards a competitive, secure and sustainable energy system is possible” without energy efficiency, but it does not propose any target in this policy area and delays any specific decision until the review of the Energy Efficiency Directive, due for June 2014.

“This chance needs to be seized. We call the European Commission to stand by its words and transform its “virtual” support for Energy Efficiency into a real, stable business and investment climate. Not integrating energy efficiency as a cornerstone of the Climate and Energy policies would deprive our economies from much the needed incentive to transform a huge existing potential into tangible economic, environmental and social benefits”.

“Everyone knows that the future competitiveness and sustainable growth potential of the EU economy will largely depend on its resource efficiency, especially its energy efficiency”, said Jan te Bos, Director General of Eurima. “Ambitious energy efficiency policies and measures tick all the boxes for solving the current economic, social and environmental challenges, and their almost immediate return on investment will re-inject funds into our economies thus becoming a “revolving engine for local growth and jobs”.

Eurima is part of a large industry community pointing out that the concurrent economic, social and environmental crises have underlined that business-as-usual is no longer an option and that change is necessary. Knowing that all change is difficult and does not happen overnight it takes political vision, commitment and, above all, courage. Opting for a “step-by-step” approach leaves too much room for doubt. Therefore today’s Climate & Energy Package is a missed opportunity. Clear indication of where the EU puts its mid- and long-term priorities and objectives is needed for a stable and transparent investment climate driving the energy transition and green economy.

“It is curious to see how the leaders of EU’s administration can decide to ignore clear demands from governments and voters on setting a binding energy efficiency target including a specific focus on the necessary deep renovation of the EU building stock”, te Bos added. “Research has amply demonstrated that energy renovation of buildings is the closest the EU can get to a silver bullet for creating jobs, reducing energy costs, turning our energy trade deficit into locally available funds and providing long-term energy security”.

Eurima urges the European Council of March 2014 and the European Commission services in their June assessment of the Energy Efficiency Directive to turn the traditional lip-service to energy efficiency into real tangible support for a 2030 bottom-up binding energy savings target.

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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 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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