

Press Release – EMBARGOED FOR 20 NOVEMBER 2012, 08:00

Energy savings to be first policy priority for 2030

Brussels, 20 November 2012 – On the occasion of today's Brussels launch of the World Energy Outlook 2012: *Unlocking the potential of energy efficiency*, organised by the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Coalition for Energy Savings, the Coalition calls on the European Commission to make energy efficiency and savings the first priority of European energy and economic policies for 2030 and beyond.

"We call on the Commission to make energy efficiency and savings an objective in its own right and a first priority for 2030. The current silence on the role of energy savings for the 2030 energy and climate policy is worrying. It could endanger EU's leadership on energy efficiency" says Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General of the Coalition for Energy Savings. *"The World Energy Outlook 2012 shows that energy efficiency is Europe's best chance to stay competitive, reduce its energy trade deficits, create employment and safeguard its environment"*.

The World Energy Outlook 2012, published last week by the IEA, estimates that half of the growth in world energy demand from now to 2035 could be met by realising available, but as yet untapped, economic energy saving potentials. For the EU this will bring huge benefits, including reducing consumer energy expenditure by nearly €300 billion and energy import costs by €123 billion yearly by 2035.

"The IEA's findings provide a welcome tailwind to those implementing the EU's new Energy Efficiency Directive across Member States and pave the way for energy efficiency and savings to become the first consideration of the EU's energy policy agenda for 2030 and beyond", find the Friends of the Coalition for Energy Savings¹.

"Energy efficiency and savings policies are as close as we can get to a 'silver-bullet' to effectively addressing the economic, social and environmental crises and therefore need to be given absolute priority. The full deployment of the cost-efficient profitable business-case of energy efficiency and savings needs to be accompanied by ambitious public policy and legislation providing investment perspective and security. If we are not getting the right signals for efficiency now we will miss huge opportunities for job creation, reducing fuel poverty, resource scarcity and boosting Europe's competitiveness", says Jan te Bos, Director General of EURIMA.

"The EU has failed to tap into its abundant energy saving potentials for 2020 because it treated energy efficiency as an after-thought in its climate and energy package. For 2030 this must change. We need to put energy efficiency centre stage, and radically step up the pace and ambition of public intervention, driven by ambitious energy saving targets", says Erica Hope, Senior Policy Officer at CAN Europe.

The IEA's estimations of economic energy savings potentials are on the conservative side. They include efficiency measures which deliver individual net-financial savings but do not reflect the multiple benefits of energy savings, including climate protection, employment creation, public budget recovery and competitiveness.

ENDS

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Annex: Coalition open letter to the European Commission 19/11/2012

¹ Caroline Lucas (UK MP), Anders Wijkman (Co-president of Club of Rome), Prof. Owen Lewis (Former CEO of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland), Gianni Silvestrini (Scientific Director of Kyoto Club), Prof. Diana Ürge-Vorsatz (Director of the Center for Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Policies)

Brussels, the 19th November 2012

To: College of Commissioners
José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

Open letter - Energy savings to be first policy priority for 2030 and beyond

Dear President,

Energy efficiency is gaining momentum according to the IEA's World Energy Outlook this year and could be the basis of the next energy revolution if countries take action to unlock efficiency potentials. Of all regions, the EU has most to gain from energy efficiency.

In light of this, we are concerned that the role of energy savings seems overlooked in the emerging discussions on 2030 climate and energy policy.

The Coalition for Energy Savings calls on you to make energy efficiency and savings the first priority of European energy and economic policies for 2030 and beyond.

Energy efficiency and savings are an objective in their own right. Whilst energy efficiency and savings are the most cost-effective source of greenhouse gas emission reductions, they also offer enormous benefits in terms of energy security, employment creation, public budget recovery, improved health and quality of life, and a more sustainable use of natural resources. Energy savings investments are an indicator of the health of the economy, as they require durable job creation and result in long-term benefits for consumers. In a context of a global increase of resource scarcity, reducing energy waste is the easiest first step in the unavoidable long-term change of consumption patterns.

Energy efficiency and savings are a prerequisite for a successful post-2020 climate and energy policy. Delivering the full economic potential for energy efficiency and savings is the only way to ensure that the most cost-effective greenhouse gas emission reductions will be delivered. Market-based instruments or greenhouse gas and renewable energy targets alone are not adequate to minimise the infrastructure costs of a renewable energy system and maximise macro-economic benefits.

Decisive public intervention is required to seize Europe's energy savings potential in 2030 and beyond. The failure of current policies to secure the EU's 2020 energy savings target shows that the pace and ambition of public intervention must be radically stepped up if Europe is to seize its energy savings potential in 2030 and beyond. Only a dedicated policy architecture that combines legislation and targets will provide the necessary motivation and accountability for policy-makers and implementers, create acceptance among citizens and energy consumers, and give investors and infrastructure planners long-term predictability.

We believe that the EU has a distinct interest in being a global leader for energy efficiency policies. Therefore, we need your leadership for a 2030 policy agenda, which makes energy efficiency and savings its first priority.

Yours sincerely,

Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General