

# Press Release

## Energy Union: 'First step, efficiency'

*Brussels, 16 November 2015 – A new [briefing](#) from the Coalition for Energy Savings takes stock of the state of energy savings in the EU and of its potential to reap the multiple benefits of an energy-efficient European Union.*

As the European Commission Vice-President for Energy Union Maroš Šefčovič is set to release the State of the Energy Union, the Coalition for Energy Savings is reviewing the state of energy savings. The analysis shows that energy efficiency is still waiting in the wings, leaving considerable scope to implement the Energy Union's motto, 'energy efficiency first'.

EU binding energy saving requirements are delivering results and can make a major contribution to meeting Europe's 2030 climate and energy objectives, but the EU is still miles away from Europe's economic potential. If the EU tapped all of the cost-effective energy savings, it would drive €714bn of investment, i.e. twice the amount expected from the Juncker Investment plan, and create or maintain 11 million jobs, i.e. almost half of the unemployed people in the EU.[1]

"If we want to make energy efficiency a reality in Europe, we urgently need assurance that EU requirements will continue and will be strengthened after 2020 to provide investment certainty for governments and business", said Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General of the Coalition for Energy Savings.

As a multi-stakeholder Coalition, uniting 30 European business, civil society, consumer, professional, trade union and local government organisations, the Coalition for Energy Savings calls on EU institutions and Member States to urgently act to tap the cost-effective energy savings potential and make 'energy efficiency first' not only a motto, but a reality.

In the absence of a regulatory framework for 2030, investments in energy efficiency would drop significantly after 2020[2], undoing the good work of Member States in implementing ambitious policies and measures to date. Because investment barriers cannot effectively be removed at national level alone, Europe needs to act fast and ensure the continuation and strengthening of the EU's main energy savings measures, including the EED's 1.5% annual savings requirement, which is set to expire in 2020.

Tapping the energy efficiency potential will also require looking for ways to ensure energy efficiency is fully used as a resource in the energy system. The first step should be to ensure that all Impact Assessments provide cost-benefit assessments to allow a comparison of all the real costs and savings for EU's societies and economies. In the past such assessments were missing and economic modelling results have been presented in obscure and misleading ways.

[1] Compared to a business-as-usual scenario (energy projections from PRIMES 2013)

[2] According to EU's energy projections and economic modelling

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*The Coalition for Energy Savings brings together business, professionals, local authorities, trade unions, consumer 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. [energycoalition.eu](http://energycoalition.eu)*

#### Notes for editors

- According to a report by Fraunhofer ISI et al, on behalf of DG ENER, the EU could save at least 40% of its overall final energy demand by 2030 if it made of all the cost-effective efficiency improvements across all sectors of the economy.
- Coalition for Energy Savings Briefing: "State of Energy Savings" can be downloaded [here](#).
- "Energy Efficiency First: How to make it happen" can be downloaded [here](#).