

THE COALITION FOR ENERGY SAVINGS

Brussels, 19 January 2011

Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council

Dear President,

The European Commission's assessment that the EU will miss the target to reduce energy consumption by 20% is a matter of deep concern for Europe. The Coalition for Energy Savings believes that a greater level of political commitment is needed to get us back on track. Potential benefits for citizens and industry will not materialise unless there is a far higher priority on energy savings and efficiency. We therefore call upon the European Council to adopt binding targets and measures to achieve the EU's energy saving objective.

The Coalition for Energy Savings represents a cross cutting group of 22 environmental and social NGOs, business and professional associations that have joined together to make the case for energy efficiency and savings. From our many different perspectives and areas of expertise, we are united in our conviction that the most available and effective instruments to address short- and long term economic, social and environmental challenges in the EU will be the more efficient use of energy at every stage, and the energy savings that will contribute to mitigating climate change, oil and gas import dependency, and introducing cost reductions.

Current projections indicate that the EU will achieve less than half of its target of 20% energy savings by 2020, or a target saving of 560 Mt of CO₂. Meeting the target would reduce Europe's fuel import bill by an estimated €40 billion by 2020, lower energy bills for consumers by €78 billion annually by the same year, generate millions of valuable jobs, and spur low-carbon competitiveness. It is a target that must be met, for Europe and for the world, and we cannot afford to wait before taking further action.

The 4th of February is the occasion where the European Council should recognise the shortfall in achieving the energy savings target, and commit to an energy policy that will address the gap:

- Direct the Commission to prepare a bold, ambitious and innovative energy efficiency plan covering the full energy supply chain, as part of its Action Plan due in March 2011;
- Establish that managing customer demand should be the first element of our energy policy, rather than energy supply: the reduction of energy consumption through energy efficiency is the most cost effective and readily implementable approach to improving security of supply and competitiveness for Europe;
- Provide appropriate financing for energy savings: promote innovative models that mobilize private sources of funding and integrate public funding, ensure the active involvement of energy utilities, and make better use of available resources;
- Launch a comprehensive approach targeting accelerated renovations of buildings, including ambitious refurbishment targets, financial mechanisms to support upfront costs of renovation, and training for professionals in the building-chain;
- Establish binding targets for energy saving in order to signal to all market actors that the European Union steadfastly intends to curtail unnecessary energy use.

We urge you to place energy efficiency and savings at the centre of the agenda for the February 4th European Council . There is enormous potential for energy savings, not only from energy policies but also through other economic and industrial initiatives. It is only the commitment by Europe's leadership, at this crucial stage, that will allow Europe to gain the energy, environmental, economic, and social benefits that energy efficiency and savings can offer.

Yours sincerely,

Selma Harrington
President
ACE



Tudor Constantinescu
Executive Director
BPIE



Matthias Duwe
Director
CAN Europe




Luigi Meli
Director General
CECED



Claire Roumet
Secretary General
CECODHAS




James Thornton
CEO
ClientEarth



Fiona Riddoch
Managing Director
COGEN Europe



John Schonenberger
Chief Executive
European Copper Institute



Nils Borg
Executive Director
ECEEE



Jules Kortenhorst
CEO
ECF



John Hontelez
Secretary General
EEB



Jürgen Sturm
Secretary General
ELC



Sandrine Dixon-Declève
Director
EU CLG



Jan te Bos
Director General
Eurima



Amanda Afifi
Secretary General
EuroACE



Bertrand Cazes
Secretary General
Glass for Europe



Oliver Loebel
Secretary General
PU-Europe



Sean Tompkins
Chief executive
RICS



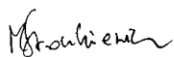
Richard Cowart
Director
RAP Online



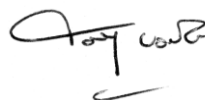
Steve Howard
CEO
The Climate Group



Magda Stoczkiewicz
Director
Friends of the Earth
Europe



Tony Long
Director
WWF European Policy
Office



CC:

Heads of State and Governments of EU Member States
European Commission President José Barroso,
European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek,
Commissioner for Energy Günther Oettinger

The Coalition for Energy Savings is an unprecedented gathering of 22 businesses, professional 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.

Members of The Coalition: ACE; BPIE; CAN Europe; CECED; CECODHAS; ClientEarth; COGEN Europe; European Copper Institute; eceee; ECF; EEB; ELC; EU CLG; Eurima; EuroACE; Friends of the Earth Europe; Glass for Europe, PU-Europe; RAP Online; RICS; The Climate Group; WWF