

## THE COALITION



Brussels, 29 September 2010

Dear President Barroso,

The Coalition is an unprecedented gathering of 19 environmental and social NGOs, business and professional associations. Recently launched, its purpose is to make the case for placing greater emphasis on energy efficiency and savings. We believe these are the most available and accessible instruments for the European Union to address its short- and long term economic, social and environmental challenges.

The Coalition's members welcomed the focus you placed on energy in your "State of the Union" address delivered at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 7<sup>th</sup> September, in which you very rightly pointed out the "long-term implications" of the decisions being taken by the European Commission in the next year. We also fully recognise the need to ensure the EU exits from the financial crisis quickly and sustainably, creating jobs and social improvement as its economy develops competitively in a challenging global environment.

We regret, however, that the role of energy efficiency and savings was not sufficiently emphasised in this overall context. We would like to reiterate that, as Commission President, you should personally give more impetus to the positive, cost-efficient and long-lasting impact of energy efficiency and energy savings policies. The introduction of the right set of measures combined with a wider use of available technology could indeed make an impressive contribution to the EU ambitious environmental and economic objectives, and should therefore be given a central role in the EU 2020 strategy. We would be delighted to support you and the European Commission in giving this crucial issue the attention it deserves at EU level.

The advantages to be gained in prioritising energy efficiency were recently presented to Europe's energy ministers<sup>i</sup>. Tripling the impact of energy efficiency and savings measures would potentially result in lower energy bills for consumers, with savings of up to €78 billion annually by 2020<sup>ii</sup>, millions of new valuable jobs, and a massive boost to innovation in low-

carbon industries and services both within the EU and globally. These measures are also the most cost-effective tool for improving energy security and solidarity among the 27 Member States.

These substantial gains will not be achieved without a clear commitment and focus from the highest levels of EU policy-making. Leading by example is a must, especially in the light of the unavoidable end of fossil fuels, which inevitably will require the EU to look more closely at how to best manage its demand, rather than solely focusing on securing and expanding its supply of energy.

We therefore call on you to place energy efficiency and savings as a top priority for the EU. There is a vast potential for energy efficiency measures and cost savings that the EU and national policy makers have not yet started to tap into such as better tailored financial schemes and specific binding targets. We look forward to co-operating on this point with you and your staff in order to contribute to raising the profile of this crucial issue as one that is relevant to the whole Europe 2020 strategy as much as to energy policy specifically.

Yours sincerely,

**Selma Harrington**  
President  
ACE



**Claire Roumet**  
Secretary General  
CECODHAS



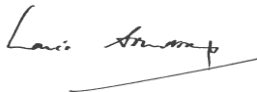
**Nils Borg**  
Executive Director  
ECEEE



**Jan te Bos**  
Director General  
Eurima



**Louis Armstrong**  
CEO  
RICS



**Tudor Constantinescu**  
Executive Director  
BPIE




**James Thornton**  
CEO  
ClientEarth



**Jules Kortenhorst**  
CEO  
ECF



**Amanda Afifi**  
Secretary General  
EuroACE



**Steve Howard**  
CEO  
The Climate Group



**Matthias Duwe**  
Director  
CAN Europe



**Fiona Riddoch**  
Managing Director  
COGEN Europe



**John Hontelez**  
Secretary General  
EEB



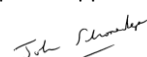
**Bertrand Cazes**  
Executive Director  
Glass for Europe



**Luigi Meli**  
Director General  
CECED



**John Schonenberger**  
Chief Executive  
European Copper Institute



**Sandrine Dixson-Declève**  
Director  
EU CLG



**Oliver Loebel**  
Secretary General  
PU-Europe



**Tony Long**  
Director  
WWF European Policy Office



**CC:** Commissioner for Energy, Günther Oettinger  
European Commission Secretary-General, Catherine Day  
DG Energy Director General, Philip Lowe

<sup>i</sup> Please see the press release we issued on this occasion: <http://pr.euractiv.com/press-release/business-and-ngos-unite-urge-energy-ministers-triple-efforts-energy-savings-and-effici>

<sup>ii</sup> Ecofys and Fraunhofer ISI report: "Energy savings 2020 - How to triple the impact of energy saving policies in Europe" <http://www.energysavings2020.eu>