

Brussels, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012

## **Structural Funds 2014-2020**

### ***Support and strengthen thematic concentration on low-carbon economy***

Dear Minister,

The Coalition for Energy Savings calls on you to support the European Commission's proposal for earmarking 20% of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for investments in the low-carbon economy (article 4 of the ERDF regulation), and strengthen it by increasing that percentage for less developed regions from 6% to 15%.

Our Coalition unites business, civil society, professional and local authority associations in Europe with the aim of making energy savings a top priority of EU policy.

We believe that public support for investment in energy efficiency is required to kick start sustainable economic growth and to create local and stable jobs.

The new Cohesion Policy is a unique opportunity to make a difference by requiring Member States to spend a minimum percentage of their ERDF allocation on energy efficiency and renewable energy. Doing so will improve consistency between EU funding and the agreed EU energy, environmental and economic priorities:

- Investing in energy savings has a positive and well-documented effect on job creation, reduction of energy bills and of fuel poverty. Saving energy is the most cost effective option to reduce CO2 emissions and improve energy security through lower energy imports. Current policies however are set to achieve only half of the EU's 20% energy savings target by 2020.
- The minimum ERDF percentage to be earmarked for investment in the low-carbon economy can scale up the investment needed to make a macro-regional impact achieving a critical mass of investment relevant for the EU to get back on track to achieve its 20% energy savings target by 2020. The European Parliament already recognised "that Member States and regions should concentrate EU and national resources on a small number of priorities and projects that are of genuine European relevance"<sup>1</sup>.
- The Cohesion Policy can provide needed leverage to help public authorities speed up the renovation of the buildings they own as proposed in the draft Energy Efficiency Directive.

We believe that the challenge of absorbing all available funding can be overcome by new instruments such as technical assistance programs, and new tools being developed in the context of the Energy Efficiency Directive (i.e. national energy efficiency funds which would help to streamline funding, concentrate assistance and provide a one-stop shop).

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Scheuer - Secretary General

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<sup>1</sup> European Parliament, Own-initiative report on investing in the future: a new MFF for a competitive, sustainable and inclusive Europe (2010/2211(INI)), article 67.

## **Members of the Coalition for Energy Savings:**

*The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE)*  
*Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE)*  
*ClientEarth*  
*Climate Action Network – Europe (CAN-Europe)*  
*COGEN Europe*  
*Energy Cities*  
*The European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EuroACE)*  
*The European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE)*  
*European Association of Polyurethane Insulation Manufacturers (PU Europe)*  
*The European Climate Foundation*  
*The European Committee of Domestic Equipment Manufacturers (CECED)*  
*European Copper Institute*  
*The European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (eceee)*  
*European Environmental Bureau (EEB)*  
*The European Federation for Intelligent Energy Efficiency Services (EFIEES)*  
*The European Insulation Manufacturers Association (Eurima)*  
*European Lamp Companies Federation (ELCF)*  
*The European Liaison Committee For Social Housing (CECODHAS)*  
*Friends of the Earth Europe*  
*Glass for Europe*  
*WWF*

*The Coalition for Energy Savings brings together business, 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. In particular it is arguing for the current 20% energy efficiency target to be binding.*

*Coalition members represent:*

- 400 associations, 150 companies*
- 15 million supporters, 1.5 million employees*
- 1,000 cities and towns in 30 countries in Europe*