

PRESS RELEASE

Energy Efficiency: Council increasing gap to Europe's 20% target

Brussels, 02/04/12 - The latest Danish Presidency proposal on the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) would close only one third of the gap to Europe's 20% energy saving target for 2020, according to the Coalition for Energy Savings. In fact, certain key provisions risk being even weaker than existing legislation which is due to be repealed by the new Directive.

Ambassadors will meet on 3 April to try and agree on an initial negotiating mandate so that talks with the European Parliament can begin on 11 April. The proposal rejects MEPs' request for binding national targets and weakens nearly all binding measures beyond previous texts. In particular:

- Public building renovation requirements would be meaningless and long-term targets for cutting the energy wastage of the EU building stock are rejected;
- National end use saving targets in the context of energy efficiency obligations are weakened to the extent that they would represent no improvement or even a weakening of what is already done under the Energy Services Directive, that is to be repealed by the EED; and
- Requirements on public procurement and the proper development of energy efficiency in energy supply through combined generation of heat and power.

"The Council discussion shows a lack of responsibility in light of the energy challenges Europe is facing. Exploding energy costs, high unemployment and a slow economic recovery call for urgent investment in energy efficiency within Europe rather than spending money on energy imports", says Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General of the Coalition.

"The Energy Efficiency Directive is a chance to address all of these problems, but Member States need to focus less on finding ways to wriggle out of taking action and more on how to agree on effective legislation."

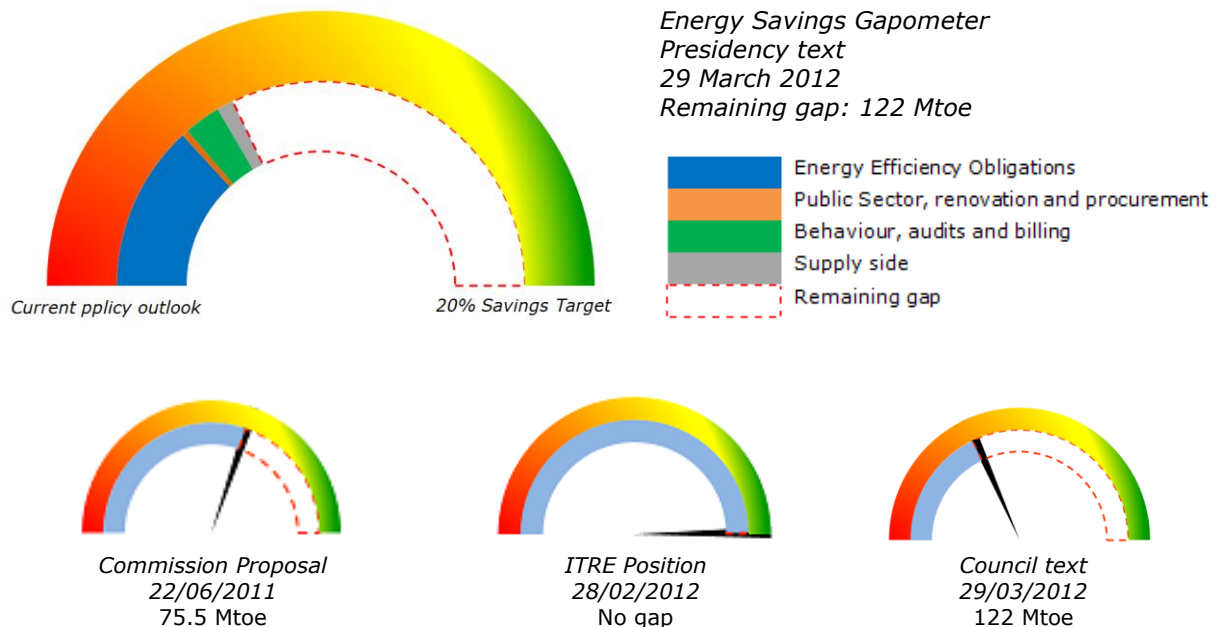
Notes to Editors

Europe's target to reduce its energy use by 2020 requires the EU to save 368 million tonnes of oil equivalent (Mtoe) per year by 2020 compared to projections, staying below a total consumption of 1474 Mtoe. At present it is due to miss this target by approximately half, meaning that an additional 190 Mtoe of savings need to be delivered.

The European Commission's proposal for the Energy Efficiency Directive consisted of a range of binding energy efficiency measures with the potential to reduce that gap to 76 Mtoe. The ITRE Committee in the European Parliament voted for strengthening these measures so as to close the gap, and suggested binding national energy savings targets.

The Coalition's Gapometer assesses the potential of these measures as formulated in the different texts to close this gap to Europe's 20% target.

The new Presidency proposal would leave a gap of 122 Mtoe to the target.



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)
European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE)
Friends of the Earth Europe
Glass for Europe
WWF

The Coalition for Energy Savings brings together business, professional, local authorities 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:

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