

Brussels, the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2012

Mr Martin LIDEGAARD  
Minister for Climate and Energy  
Stormgade 2-6  
DK-1470 Copenhagen K

### **Stop roll back of EU energy efficiency policy**

Dear Minister,

The Coalition for Energy Savings calls on you to honour earlier commitments on energy efficiency and step up the ambition for the Energy Efficiency Directive at the upcoming meeting of European Energy Ministers on 14<sup>th</sup> February.

In the context of economic hardship and ever increasing energy prices and import dependency, we find it perverse that national governments are watering down the very legislative proposal which would provide solutions. The latest draft under discussion in the Council would backtrack on existing commitments and legislation<sup>1</sup>.

- Questioning the methodology of the EU's 20% energy efficiency objective is questioning the objective instead of discussing how to achieve it.
- Under existing EU law Member States have agreed to save 1% of their overall energy demand every year, and are actually doing so<sup>2</sup>. This is substantially more than the 1.5% savings obligation if excluding transport and including supply side efficiency measures<sup>3</sup> as discussed in the Council's Working Party in the context of article 6.
- Proposed exemptions and flexibility to public building renovation requirements and supply side measures are so large that the market and energy savings effects would become negligible.

Europe more than ever needs a strong and common strategy to kick start the economic recovery and achieve sustainable growth. The economic collapse or youth unemployment in one country are the other countries' problems too. Stepping up energy efficiency improvement efforts, in particular deep renovation of buildings, is a significant part of the solution to such problems, will create jobs and public revenues and reduce costs.

The Coalition for Energy Savings which unites 22 business, professional and environmental organisations in Europe, calls on you to stop casting doubts on Europe's commitment to energy savings and move on from discussing whether to save energy to how to save energy.

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General

*This letter will be made publicly available*

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<sup>1</sup> Including: EU commitment to save 20% energy by 2020; Energy Services 2006/32/EC and Combined Heat and Power 2004/08/EC Directives both to be repealed by the Energy Efficiency Directive

<sup>2</sup> Energy Services Directive sets an indicative target of 9% savings between 2008 and 2016, in average 1% per year. According to the national implementation reports these targets are achievable and often even overachieved.

<sup>3</sup> An annual 1% economy wide (industry, transport and domestic) energy saving target as set by Directive 2006/32/EC corresponds to some 1.5% if transport is excluded and 1.9% if supply side efficiency improvements are countable as well.