



Brussels November 2011

Dear Energy Minister,

**Object: The Energy Efficiency Directive is an opportunity for the economy, the citizens and the environment.**

As Minister in charge of your country's energy policy, you are leading the discussions on one of the most promising legislative tools currently at Europe's disposal for addressing today's severe economic and financial challenges: the draft EU Energy Efficiency Directive (EED).

At a time of high and rising energy imports and concerns about the consequences of climate change, it is imperative that we properly examine how to make the most of the cheapest, safest and cleanest energy available to us: energy savings. Meeting Europe's target to save 20% on energy by 2020 could reverse the EU's combined import dependency on oil, coal, gas and uranium from a projected 62% in 2020 back down to the 1990 level of 45%. This means saving hundreds of billions of Euros that Member States would otherwise be wasting on costly and insecure energy imports. It also means cutting greenhouse gas emissions by an extra 5% below 1990 levels and creating up to 2 million new jobs.

**The fact that the European Union is now discussing a new Directive to help us tap the abundant resource of energy efficiency and savings is an opportunity not to be missed.** A well-designed EED can promote the European-wide level playing field, market signals, norms and investment that are needed to finally make the benefits of energy efficiency and savings a reality.

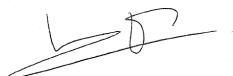
In view of all of these benefits, we are seriously concerned by news we hear from the Council Working Party on Energy which suggests that Member States are choosing to see the EED as a burden instead of an opportunity, and are seeking to water down or remove its key provisions. **In our assessment the Commission's proposal only offers measures sufficient to achieve two thirds of the 20% target; it urgently requires strengthening - not further weakening.** In particular we consider that:

- **Binding national primary energy consumption targets** should be distributed and introduced without additional delay - as the instrument which will allow Member States most flexibility to contribute to the 20% target in the way that best suits their national circumstances.
- **Energy efficiency obligation schemes** offer a cost-effective, stable delivery and financing mechanism for tapping energy savings in areas where they have not yet been unlocked, such as deep renovations of the existing building stock. A requirement at EU level for such schemes to be introduced in all Member States will catalyse the transition to a future-proof business model for the supply and use of energy.

While the EED is a technical dossier with many details to be ironed out, your commitment will help deliver a strong and effective piece of legislation. **We urge you to recognise the EED in terms of all of the benefits it can promote for your country's economy, citizens and environment, and to ensure that the progress report and signals issued at your meeting on 24 November reflect this recognition.**

Thank you for your attention

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