

Press Release

For immediate Release

French and German companies call for an ambitious revision of EU energy efficiency legislation

Paris, 28 November 2016: Senior business representatives from leading French and German companies gathered today to discuss their strategic priorities in the upcoming Energy Efficiency package that the European Commission is expected to present on 30 November. The proposal will include the revision of both the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) and Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), two key pieces of legislation on energy efficiency.

Business representatives stressed that a new regulatory framework is needed to incentivise the market uptake of successful business models for energy efficiency. European policy-makers should not miss the opportunity to consider energy efficiency as a strategic investment to drive EU competitiveness, productivity and create local jobs.

Dr **Fatih Birol**, IEA Executive Director, opened the Franco-German High-Level Conference hosted in Le Hive, Schneider Electric's global headquarters, and stated: *“Energy efficiency is of huge strategic importance in Europe, and close engagement between business and policy makers is essential. The IEA is working globally to support progress on energy efficiency and deliver its social, economic and environmental benefits”*.

Laurent Michel, DG Energy and Climate, Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Sea (MEEM), France and Thorsten Herdan, DG Energy Efficiency and Energy Systems, Federal Ministry of Energy & Economics (BMWi), Germany discussed policy recommendations with the business community in view of the forthcoming co-decision procedure.

The initiative was organized by the European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE), the German Deutsche Unternehmensinitiative Energieeffizienz (DENEFF) and the French electrical industry trade association (Gimélec).

Monica Frassoni, EU-ASE President and moderator of the conference, affirmed: *“Energy efficiency works. The EU’s policies have been highly effective to date, and energy demand is now at 1990 levels with no negative impact on economic growth. On 30th November, the Commission has a unique opportunity to significantly scale up energy efficiency investments with a binding 40% EU target and a comprehensive enabling regulatory framework”*.

Luc Rémont, President of Gimélec, stated: *“The EU needs an ambitious framework for energy efficiency, tackling first the area with the biggest potential for cost-effective savings, which is the building sector, especially in non-residential buildings”*.

Martin Bornholdt, Managing Director and Member of the Board DENEFF, highlighted: *“In increasingly turbulent political times Europe needs to focus on its most reliable source of energy: energy efficiency. Our*

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industry is ready to take the challenge to replace expensive fuel imports by energy savings and by that create jobs and growth in Europe. We call on policy makers to change the rules of the game accordingly”.

The two panels were composed by senior business representatives from Siemens, Veolia, Groupe Atlantic, French Electrical Contractors Association, Knauf Group, Saint-Gobain and Schneider Electric. They recognised the importance of an adequate regulatory framework to drive energy efficiency.

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Notes to the editor

- [EU-ASE](#) was established in December 2010 by some of Europe’s leading multinational companies. The Alliance creates a platform from which our companies (1E, Danfoss, Ingersoll Rand, Kingspan, Knauf Insulation, Opower, Philips, Schneider Electric, Siemens and Veolia) can join with politicians and thought leaders to ensure the voice of energy efficiency is heard from across the business and political community.

EU-ASE members have operations across the 28 Member States of the European Union, employ over 240.000 people in Europe and have an aggregated annual turnover of €90 billion.

- [DENEFF](#) unites frontrunner companies in the field of energy efficiency to collectively represent their political interests for an effective and ambitious energy efficiency regulation in Germany.
- [Gimélec](#) is the French energy management and automation trade association representing 180 companies that provide electrical and automation solutions for the power, building, industrial, data centers and infrastructure markets. Gimélec members employ 68.000 people in France where they achieve a turnover of over €12 billion - 60% of which comes from exports.