



EUROPEAN ALLIANCE TO
SAVE ENERGY
Creating an Energy-Efficient Europe

PRESS RELEASE

The Energy committee of the European Parliament outlines its visions for the Energy Efficiency Directive

Brussels, 13 July 2022 – Today, the Members of the European Parliament’s committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) adopted the report of Danish MEP Niels Fuglsang to revise the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED).

Exactly one year after the presentation by the Commission of the ‘Fit for 55%’ package, aimed to put the European Union on track to reduce GHG emissions by at least 55% in 2030, the ITRE committee acknowledges that energy efficiency must be substantially increased to combat climate change and make the European Union less dependent on energy imports.

In view of today’s energy crisis, MEPs in the ITRE committee agreed to set energy efficiency binding targets for the Union and for the Member States, both for primary and final energy consumption by 2030. This is a very timely and long-awaited approach that we strongly support.

Specifically, the ITRE committee sets the Union target for energy efficiency to at least 40% in final energy consumption¹. This is a higher than the Commission’s amended proposal included in its REPowerEU plan released on May 2022, but still lower than today’s technical and economic potential for energy savings². According to a recent modelling analysis of the European Commission, a 43%³ target in final energy consumption would reduce total fossil gas imports by 44% by 2030, overachieving the REPowerEU objective to reduce to zero the EU’s dependence on Russian gas imports.

On other elements of the Directive, we welcome the reinforcement of provisions such as the introduction of the Energy Efficiency First principle in Article 3. This is key for both public and private sectors to prioritise energy savings first in the design and planning of policy and investment decisions.

However, we regret that the agreement leaves the door open for Member States to exclude social housing from the obligation to renovate public buildings. In addition, although the annual energy savings obligation has been increased to 2% in Article 8, a quarter of these energy savings could be counted from fossil fuel technologies until June 2028. We are concerned of this decision because we believe the EED should aim to achieve the EU’s decarbonisation goals without further delays. Concerning energy savings coming from industry, we support the deal to strengthen the requirements for the implementation of energy management systems and energy audits, but we are concerned that mandating only efficiency

¹ Based on the projections for energy consumption of the PRIMES 2007 reference scenario of the European Commission. The adopted level of target is equivalent to a 14.5% target for both final and primary energy consumption in PRIMES 2020.

² [Assessing the impact of high energy prices on the economic potentials for energy savings in the EU](#), Stefan Scheuer and Fraunhofer Institute, April 2022.

³ Analysed by DG ENER in a complementary modelling for the EED IA, based on the projections of the PRIMES 2007 reference scenario. A 43% energy efficiency target in final energy consumption and a 45.5% target in primary energy consumption are equivalent to the PRIMES 2020 19% target that was initially proposed in the draft report by Niels Fuglsang, the ITRE rapporteur.



EUROPEAN ALLIANCE TO
SAVE ENERGY

Creating an Energy-Efficient Europe

measures from audits with low payback times of 3 years rules out many easy-to-implement efficiency solutions that ultimately are helping businesses become more resilient and competitive.

Finally, we acknowledge the integration of the water-energy dimension. We regret, however, that the benefits of an integrated approach to managing water and energy are not more strongly supported by the ITRE Committee, for instance by requiring to measure water consumption in energy audits.

Monica Frassoni, President of the Alliance, said: *“We are only seeing the tip of the iceberg of this energy price crisis. Without a strong policy signal from the EU to put energy savings first, citizens and businesses will suffer the consequences. And the climate crisis is even more worrying with natural catastrophes impacting our lives on a daily basis. There is an opportunity in the plenary of the Parliament to fix the shortcomings of the Directive and in particular the exclusion of mandatory renovation of social housing and the partial consideration of energy efficiency savings from fossil fuel appliances. We look forward to continuing to cooperate with the Institutions to improve the directive. There is a good basis to work with and succeed, no ifs and buts, to structurally address both energy and climate crisis”.*

You can find [here](#) the European Alliance to Save Energy’s position on the revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive.

About EU-ASE

The European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE) is a cross-sectoral, business-led organisation that ensures that the voice of energy efficiency is heard across Europe. EU-ASE members have operations across the 27 Member States of the European Union, employ over 340.000 people in Europe and have an aggregated annual turnover of €115 billion.



Media contact:

Antoan Montignier

+32 499 84 97 28

antoan.montignier@euase.eu