

To the kind attention of the **Members of the European Parliament**

Brussels, 30 November 2015

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

**Re: Business community calls for a 40% energy efficiency target in the Energy Union report**

On behalf of the European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE) and the energy efficiency business community, we are writing to express our full support for the creation of the Energy Union and to encourage EU institutions to place energy efficiency firmly at the forefront of its development and operation.

However, the European Commission has affirmed in its Energy Efficiency Progress Report, issued on 18 November 2015, that the collective efforts of Member States will achieve 17.6% primary energy savings versus the 2020 energy efficiency target of 20%.

Making energy efficiency a top priority of the Energy Union will set the scene for its success, while neglecting its importance is to risk dooming the project from the outset. There is also no doubt that long-term predictability for energy efficiency investments can only be achieved through an ambitious, EU binding 40% energy efficiency target, supported by a strong 2030 governance and based on fully implemented existing EU legislation.

As a matter of fact, putting in practice the Energy Efficiency First principle would save around 357 Mtoe by 2030, compared to current business-as-usual energy projections (PRIMES 2013)<sup>1</sup>, trigger over €714 billion worth of investments in the European economy and create or maintain over 11 million jobs in the EU. Moreover, the International Energy Agency recently described energy efficiency actions and investments as the “key factor in reducing GHG emissions”<sup>2</sup>.

On 14 October, up front of COP21, the European Parliament reiterated the call of a previous resolution, adopted on 5 February 2014, which highlighted its support for three binding targets, including an energy efficiency target at 40%.

This is not the time to take a step backwards.

The energy efficiency business community stands ready to offer its support and urges the European Parliament to find an agreement, on the Energy Union report due to be voted in Plenary on 15 December, which is in line with previous resolutions to reflect the real, cost-effective potential of energy efficiency, help ensure energy independence and security, boost the economy and create local jobs.

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<sup>1</sup> Fraunhofer (ISI) 2014, on behalf of DG ENER of the European Commission

<sup>2</sup> IEA, World Energy Outlook Special Report on Energy and Climate Change, 2015



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