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Energy efficiency to drive EU plan to go carbon-neutral by 2050

A clean planet for all - this is the title of the EU Commission's strategy for a climate-neutral economy by 2050. The proposal, which sets out how the EU will meet its commitments under the Paris climate agreement, lays out eight emission reduction scenarios for 2050 and came out in favour of reaching net zero emissions, which would be closest to achieving the goals of the Paris agreement.

The most important element of the strategy is that it sets the goal of a carbon neutral Europe by midcentury. In its strategy, the EU Commission does not yet lay down any concrete steps. It sees its paper as a long-term vision for Europe to open a debate rather than to indicate a clear way forward.

"More than 90% of European are concerned about climate change. We must take bold actions to limit global warming. There are good elements in the proposed long-term strategy, but more decisive consideration of the game changing potential of energy efficiency is needed in order for the EU to arrive to a carbon neutral world by 2050", said Monica Frassoni, EU-ASE President, commenting on the long-term strategy. "Moving forward, actions are needed to make the energy efficiency first principle Europe's no.1 priority. For example actions to accelerate building renovations will deliver real benefits to citizens, businesses and the environment", she added.

Harry Verhaar, Signify: *"A net zero carbon goal is a triple win for Europe. The creation of a carbon neutral society by midcentury will result in social benefits for Europe's citizens, will improve the quality of our living environment and will provide economic benefits, the latter either to the national or local economy, or for our household and businesses. Removing current carbon constraints is the smartest and best thing that can be done to set course to a more inclusive and fair society for all Europe's citizens. With the carbon neutral goal now set, it is imperative that we turn to action, with priority for energy efficiency that will also deliver the jobs and prosperity this better Europe aspires and deserves."*

Next Steps

The Commission will present its draft strategy at the global climate conference (COP 24) in Katowice, Poland, on 12 December. The European Parliament's environment committee is expected to comment on the Commission's strategy by 1 March 2019. A final agreement between EU governments is expected in 2019. According to the Paris climate agreement, all parties – including the EU – must submit updated 2030 emissions targets by 2020.



EUROPEAN ALLIANCE TO
SAVE ENERGY
Creating an Energy-Efficient Europe

About the European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE)

EU-ASE was established in December 2010 by some of Europe's leading multinational companies. The Alliance creates a platform from which our companies (Danfoss, Ingersoll Rand, Kingspan, Knauf Insulation, Schneider Electric, Signify, Saint-Gobain, 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 340.000 people in Europe and have an aggregated annual turnover of €115 billion.

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