



Business Alliance call for urgent action on the transition to a climate neutral Europe

An open letter to the European Council and its Member States

Brussels, 04 June 2019

President of the European Council,
Heads of States and Governments of the European Union Member States,

I am writing to you on behalf of the [European Alliance to Save Energy](#) (EU-ASE). We are a multi-sectoral business organisation whose members operate across the 28 Member States of the European Union, with an aggregated annual turnover of €115 bn, directly employing 340.000 people in Europe.

The Alliance creates an outreach platform for our companies (Danfoss, Knauf Insulation, Schneider Electric, Saint-Gobain, Siemens, Signify, and Veolia) towards politicians and thought leaders to ensure the voice of energy efficiency is heard from across the business and political community.

As you meet during the next European Council meeting in Brussels on 20-21 June 2019, we urge you to commit the European Union to a long-term climate strategy with the objective of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 at the latest. Pursuing this objective will signal a new economic direction for Europe.

The urgency of the climate crisis requires immediate action, stepping up our climate ambition and pursuing every effort to keep global temperature rise below 1.5°C by mid-century, as evidenced by the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C. To achieve the commitments made under the Paris Agreement, businesses and investors must ramp up investments without delay. The next phase of European action must begin this year as current energy and climate policies in place globally, set the planet on a global warming pathway of 3°C.

As businesses who aim to build the climate neutral economy of the future, we urge you to:

- **Welcome the European Commission's long-term climate vision to tackle climate crisis**
- **Support the objective of net-zero emissions by 2050 in order to limit the temperature rise to 1.5 °C and align the Paris Agreement objectives**
- **Endorse the call of the European Commission for energy efficiency to play a central role in reaching net-zero emissions by 2050**



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- **Consider Energy Efficiency First as a basis of the European long term strategy and the main driver of the transformation towards a fossil-free energy system**
- **Welcome the call for higher buildings' renovation rates and the recognition of the role that digitalization and near zero-emissions buildings will play in the transition**
- **Acknowledge the need for a just transition that leaves no one behind**

As business and investor leaders who aim to build the climate neutral economy of the future, we urge you agree the necessary policy foundations, notably the climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest and set the direction of travel that will provide us with the clarity and confidence to act.

We wish you a fruitful meeting and remain at your disposition for further discussion on this strategic topic.

Yours sincerely,
Monica Frassoni

President of the European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE)



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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, Kingspan, Knauf Insulation, Saint-Gobain, Schneider Electric, Siemens, Signify, 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.

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