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JOINT STATEMENT

At third Franco-German Energy Efficiency Business Forum industry leaders highlight the opportunities deriving from energy efficiency and the risks for business and citizens if prompt implementation of the Clean Energy Package is not ensured

Today the German Business Initiative for Energy Efficiency (DENEFF), European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE) and French-German Renewable Energy Office (OFATE) organised a high-level event to discuss accelerating factors for energy efficiency in the energy transition and how the new energy efficiency regulatory framework and its implementation are changing the energy market in France and Germany. The event brought together government officials, politicians and businesses.

The European Commission President-elect Ms von der Leyen proposed a European Green Deal to increase the European Union's greenhouse gas emission reduction target for 2030 to 50%-55% and make Europe the first world climate neutral economy by 2050. In this policy scenario, increasing energy efficiency across economic sectors is paramount.

While the European Commission assessment of draft National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) finds a shortfall of up to 6% to the EU's 32.5% energy efficiency target by 2030, the prompt and full implementation of EU legislation on energy efficiency is the occasion to redress this situation.

Energy efficiency measures can cost-effectively improve the energy performance and the comfort of our buildings and the quality of the air we breathe; they can pave the way for clean and efficient mobility and can help our industry to be more competitive and climate proof.

“Policy choices made by governments will determine the shape of the energy system of the future – said Mr Harry Verhaar, Chair of the European Alliance to Save Energy – If we want to achieve a climate neutral economy by 2050, we need to put the energy efficiency first principle at the heart of the transition. Changing how we construct, light, heat and cool our buildings will trigger positive change in many sectors, including energy and heavy industry, but also in sectors which at first sight may seem less connected, such as health and education. In the decade of climate action, the Franco-German partnership could lead by example, starting by committing to make all of their buildings net-zero latest by 2030.”

Christian Noll, Managing Director of DENEFF: “The new EU-policy framework is a very important driver for the German and the European energy efficiency market. Germany needs to regain its position as a frontrunner. The solutions are there and German providers of innovative energy efficiency solutions benefit from an ambitious implementation. And European energy consumers also profit from an effective policy framework. At the same time transnational cooperation and learning from best practices is key to master the European energy transition. Together the French and German governments are asked to lead the change.”

In his remarks, Mr Sven Rösner, Director of the Franco-German Office for the Energy Transition said “in aiming for carbon neutrality for 2050, Europe is setting an ambitious target for the energy sector. Both France and Germany are preparing their strategy for the coming years, the NECPs are about to be submitted. Whatever impact future regulation will have on generation, the central challenge will be to drive down energy consumption, to become more efficient in the way we live and work. If this is addressed, the rest becomes feasible, not only in terms of security of supply but also in terms of cost.”

A Franco-German cooperation at national, European and international level must be a driving force behind a fair, fast and affordable decarbonization of the European economy. Energy efficiency is a key enabler of this transition. It is a sustainable growth and jobs agenda; a pillar of EU Industrial Strategy and an indispensable driver for a climate neutral Europe with consumers at its core.