



EUROPEAN ALLIANCE TO
SAVE ENERGY
Creating an Energy-Efficient Europe

Press Release

For immediate Release

Leading businesses call EU Heads of State and Government to support a binding energy savings target for 2030



Brussels, 15 October 2014: A broad range of European companies, large and SMEs, operating in diverse sectors gathered last evening in the European Parliament on the occasion of the [Fourth Annual High-Level Dinner Debate](#) organized by the European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE).

Leading businesses called on EU Heads of State and Government, due to gather in Brussels for a European Council on 23 and 24 October, to support an ambitious EU-wide binding energy savings target for 2030.

They argue that a binding 40% energy efficiency target would instill the necessary policy framework to scale up investments and sustain market growth in energy efficient products and services. A weak proposal for efficiency will hold companies back from investing in the region.

The European Commission's proposal for a 30% energy saving target by 2030 is not ambitious because it will have a real world impact of only 12%. Unfortunately this proposal leaves an untapped cost-effective energy saving potential - which is equal to the annual energy consumption of seventeen (17) European countries¹.

A 40% energy efficiency binding framework will make European economies more competitive delivering a 4.5% GDP gain² and cutting EU energy cost by €1 trillion-€2trillion over the period 2020-2030. It will address resource scarcity fears by lowering EU import dependency currently running at 54% of overall EU energy consumption. This means a daily cost for import of € 1 billion³.

¹ Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovakia and Spain. Source "Making sense of the numbers: what does the Commission's 30% energy efficiency target by 2030 mean". E3G, 2014

² Compared to only 1% GDP gains from a 30% target

³ Figures extracted from "Making sense of the numbers: what does the Commission's 30% energy efficiency target by 2030 mean". E3G, 2014

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The **President of the European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE), Monica Frassoni**, said: *“At a time of competitiveness concerns and fears about the affordability of the package, energy efficiency offers a compelling opportunity to reconcile growth and climate needs. It also has the capacity to address heightened European energy security and resource scarcity concerns. The EU cannot risk trillions of euros in outdated investment priorities: it must boost clean-energy investments, maintain its predominant market share in the segment of energy efficiency and keep its role as the world's most important market for energy efficiency”*.

Harry Verhaar, Head of Global Public & Government Affairs at Philips Lighting and Chairman of the European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE), said: *“The three objectives for the 2030 European Energy & Climate package will most effectively improve European competitiveness as well as address climate change and energy challenges when adopted together. In particular an effective energy efficiency target will reduce energy expenses and CO2 emissions, create jobs in the renovation of Europe’s buildings and city infrastructure, as well as increase the share of renewable energy use in Europe’s energy mix. In that sense our view is that - despite the necessity and urgency to act on energy and climate challenges – an ambitious package is an innovation agenda for socio-economic progress for which Europe as a region as well its workforce and businesses are perfectly positioned”*.

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Notes to the editor

EU-ASE was established in December 2010 by some of Europe’s leading multinational companies. The Alliance creates a platform from which our companies (1E, Crupe, Danfoss, Ingersoll Rand, Kingspan, Knauf Insulation, Opower, Philips, Schneider Electric and Siemens) 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 150.000 people in Europe and have an aggregated annual turnover of €70 billion.