

Office of the Head of State
Address

Re: European Energy Security Strategy – Renovation of buildings is the solution

Dear Head of State,

You are close to decide on the 2030 Climate & Energy package, which will guide all policies and measures in this field for the next decades. In parallel, your country is currently undertaking stress-tests in order to assess its level of preparedness for an energy crisis if external supplies of primary energy are reduced or cut off.

The undersigned, representatives of leading industries, believe that increased energy security cannot be achieved without a substantial focus and effort in the field of energy efficiency in buildings. We are thus highly concerned that the Member States seem set to adopt a *Climate and Energy Package* that ignores this potential.

Ambitious action on buildings will have positive effects on many major political priorities, starting with energy security. A wide-scale deep renovation of the building stock across the EU could drastically reduce EU energy imports with no higher costs than other supply-oriented solutions. Indeed, given that the building sector is the highest user of gas, reducing our dependence on gas should start with cutting energy waste in buildings.

In addition, renovating our building stock will bring multiple benefits¹, boost local job creation, alleviate energy poverty and improve public finances². It will also significantly reduce expenditure in public health budgets through increased indoor comfort which leads to better health among occupiers. A recent study³ by the Fraunhofer ISI shows that the cost-effective potential for setting an energy efficiency target for 2030 stands at 40%, with the highest contribution being provided thanks to energy consumption reduction in buildings. We believe that 40% is the level of ambition that should be written into the 2030 Package. Any target set below this number downgrades the importance of efforts to be realised in the building sector and will thus send a contradictory signal to the construction industry and investors.

Technologies and solutions exist to deploy a robust and ambitious programme of deep renovation of your existing building stock. The skilled workforce is available too, and many young workers are actually hoping that such renovation strategies will give them an opportunity to take part in the energy transition of their countries. Furthermore, more EU funding will be available under the 2014-2020 EU Structural and Investment Funds, enabling to leverage more private capital in a more targeted and efficient way for renovation.

¹ See the IEA Report entitled *Capturing the Multiple Benefits of Energy Efficiency* at:
<http://www.iea.org/newsroomandevents/pressreleases/2014/september/name-125300-en.html>

² See the Copenhagen Economics report entitled *Multiple Benefits of Investing in Energy Efficiency Renovations* at:
<http://www.renovate-europe.eu/Multiple-Benefits-Study>

³ See the report by Fraunhofer ISI on *The role of an ambitious energy efficiency target in the frame of a 2030 target system for energy efficiency, renewables and greenhouse gas emissions which can be found at:*
<http://www.isi.fraunhofer.de/isi-en/x/projekte/2030-target-system.php>

We therefore urge you to show leadership in this matter and to fully consider the immense contribution that our existing buildings can bring to energy security, climate goals and jobs creation in the short-, medium- and long-term. We ask you to support an ambitious 2030 package where energy efficiency is prioritised and encouraged by a binding target of at least 40%, and to articulate, in the October Council Conclusions, a clear role for buildings as first area where savings will be realised.

Yours faithfully,



Adrian JOYCE
Secretary General
EuroACE




Jan TE BOS
Secretary General
Eurima




Bertrand CAZES
Secretary General
Glass for Europe



The content of this letter is supported by:

