



PRESS RELEASE

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Energy Efficiency: the solution to high energy prices

The leading European associations in the energy efficiency sector today called on EU Heads of State and Government to **strengthen the energy efficiency agenda** in Brussels and adopt a **mandatory energy efficiency target for Europe** in order to limit the impact of high energy prices.

While global energy prices are not susceptible to harmonised European action, cutting overall costs by making better use of existing supplies is. The proponents argue that Europe should turn the energy price crunch into an economic opportunity, creating economic activity and competitiveness through energy efficiency investment, thereby reducing energy costs for consumers and creating jobs.

There is an enormous untapped potential in existing, cost-effective and energy efficient technologies. The European Commission's 2006 Action Plan for Energy Efficiency estimated that the "direct cost of our inability to use energy efficiently amounts to more than 100 billion euros annually by 2020". This calculation was based on 390 Mtoe at USD 48/barrel net of taxes. The price of a barrel of oil has more than doubled since then, significantly increasing the savings potential of energy efficiency measures.

EU Member States are therefore called on to:

1. Adopt a mandatory measurable savings target for energy efficiency of 20% by 2020 to signal the importance of energy efficiency measures for security of energy supply, economic growth and environmental protection;
2. Establish a coordinated investment and incentives initiative for improving energy efficiency across all sectors;
3. Show strong commitment to full and timely implementation of existing legislation on energy efficiency.

When EU Heads of State and Government meet later this week to discuss, inter alia, rising energy prices, achieving much higher levels of energy efficiency in all relevant sectors must lie at the heart of this discussion. Industry sectors have existing products and services available and have already made significant investments to improve their offering for energy efficiency in buildings, transformation, appliances, supply and materials, for example. It is now time for an equal level of ambition from Member States.

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BING is the European association representing the rigid polyurethane insulation industry. Its products help to save energy in a wide variety of applications in buildings, district heating, cooling and refrigeration, and industrial systems. BING members have a total turnover of Euro 4 billion and provide 18,000 jobs

CECED represents the household appliance manufacturing industry in Europe. Its member companies employ over 200,000 people, are mainly based in Europe, and have a turnover of about 40 billion euros. If upstream and downstream business is taken together, the sector employs over 500,000 people. Direct Members are Arçelik, BSH Bosch und Siemens Hausgeräte GmbH, Candy Group, De'Longhi, Electrolux Holdings, Fagor Group, Gorenje, Liebherr, Indesit Company, Merloni Termosanitari, Miele, Philips, Saeco, SEB and Whirlpool Europe. CECED's member associations cover the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

COGEN Europe is Europe's umbrella organisation representing the interests of the cogeneration industry, users of the technology and promoting its benefits in the EU and the wider Europe. The association is backed by the key players in the industry including gas and electricity companies, ESCOs, equipment suppliers, consultancies, national promotion organisations, financial and other service companies.

ELC Federation - Created in 1985, the European Lamp Companies Federation (ELC) is both the forum and the voice of the lamp industry in Europe. It represents the leading European lamp manufacturers, which collectively directly employ 50,000 people, and account for 95 percent of total European production, with an annual turnover in Europe of 5 billion euros. From the outset, ELC objectives have been to promote efficient lighting practice for a sustainable environment and the advancement of human comfort, health and safety. To this end, ELC monitors, advises and co-operates with legislative bodies in developing European Directives and Regulations relevant to the European lamp industry.

Eurima is the European Insulation Manufacturers Association and represents the interests of all major mineral wool insulation producers throughout Europe. Eurima members employ over 20,000 people across Europe, with the installation of insulation products accounting for an estimated 300,000 man-years.

The European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EuroACE) was formed in 1998 by twenty of Europe's leading companies involved with the manufacture, distribution and installation of energy saving goods and services. EuroACE members have a total turnover of 140 billion euros and employ 328,000 people. The mission of EuroACE is to work together with the European institutions to help Europe move towards a more sustainable pattern of energy use in buildings, thereby contributing to Europe's commitment to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, one of the principal climate change gases.

The European Copper Institute (ECI) is a joint venture between the world's mining companies (represented by the International Copper Association, Ltd) and the European copper industry. Its mission is to promote copper's benefits to modern society across Europe through its headquarters in Brussels and a network of eleven Copper Development Associations.

Glass for Europe is the trade association for Europe's manufacturers of building, automotive, and transport glass, all derived from the base material known as flat glass. Flat glass is the basic material that goes into end-products that we see (and see through) every day: It is used to make windscreens and windows for automobiles and transport, and windows and façades for houses and buildings. It is also used, in much smaller quantities, for many other applications like interior fittings and decoration, furniture, "street furniture" (like bus stops for example), appliances and electronics, solar energy equipment, and others. Glass for Europe has currently three members (AGC, Pilkington and Saint-Gobain Glass). In total, these companies employ over 16, 000 people across the EU and have an annual production capacity of around 11.500.000 tonnes of float glass.