



**GREENPEACE**



President José Manuel Barroso  
European Commission  
200, rue de la Loi  
1049 Brussels

15 July 2014

**Subject: Support for an ambitious and binding energy savings target for 2030**

Dear President Barroso,

On 23 July, the European Commission is expected to publish its progress review of the Energy Efficiency Directive, including its recommendations for a 2030 energy savings target.

**We call on you to support the adoption of a 40% energy savings target for 2030 that is legally binding on all EU member states.**

A draft version of the Impact Assessment accompanying the review shows that an ambitious 2030 target will lead to significant benefits. A level of ambition of 35-40% energy savings will

- reduce the EU's gas consumption by 35-42%, and oil consumption by 12-14% by 2030, compared to a continuation of current policies;
- reduce the EU's gas imports by 33-40%, and oil imports by 18-19% by 2030, compared to 2010;
- save an amount of €505-552bn on energy imports over 2011-2030;
- increase the EU's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2-4%, compared to a continuation of current policies.

A less ambitious target would considerably diminish these benefits. Any target lower than 30% would commit Europe to lower energy savings in the period 2020 to 2030 than in the current decade. The European Union would effectively slow down its efforts on energy efficiency and lose momentum at a time when energy security is high on the political agenda.

The draft Impact Assessment also mentions that a "purely indicative target" is of "limited" effectiveness. This is an important lesson learnt from the EU's 2020 package. Whilst the EU is on track to meet its legally binding greenhouse gas reduction and renewable energy targets, it is still likely to miss its non-binding energy efficiency target. Clearly, a binding target for 2030



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that is broken down to national level will be more effective than a target that is not legally binding, or only binding on an EU level.

The political support for an ambitious energy savings policy framework is growing across Europe.

- In February this year, the European Parliament recommended a binding 40% energy savings target.
- In March, EU heads of state and government stated that “moderating energy demand through enhanced energy efficiency” should be “the first step” to reduce Europe's high dependency on gas imports.
- On 17 June, ministers from Germany, Denmark, Belgium, Portugal, Greece, Ireland and Luxembourg sent a letter to Commission President Barroso asking him to table an ambitious and binding 2030 energy efficiency target.
- On 27 June, EU heads of state and government noted once again the importance of energy efficiency for the EU's energy security. They also presented energy efficiency as one of the EU's strategic priorities for the upcoming five years.

European citizens, including in Central and Eastern Europe, grasp the importance of energy efficiency. According to a recent Ipsos poll conducted in Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, more than 85 percent of respondents in these countries believe the EU should agree on a binding target for the reduction of energy wastage.

Saving energy is essential in achieving all of Europe's climate and energy objectives. We count on you to use your influence within the European Commission so your institution proposes an ambitious and binding energy savings target for 2030.

Yours sincerely,

Wendel Trio

Director CAN Europe

Cc: Johannes Laitenberger, Head of Cabinet