

To: President Ursula von der Leyen
Cc: Executive Vice-President Teresa Ribera, Executive Vice-President Stéphane Séjourné, Commissioner Dan Jørgensen, Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis

Brussels, 28 September 2026

Subject: A 2040 EU energy efficiency target: the European Union's first line of defence

Dear President von der Leyen,

Energy efficiency is energy independence - reducing Europe's exposure to fossil fuel imports and protecting households and businesses from volatile energy prices and supply shocks.

Energy efficiency is competitiveness - lowering operating costs for European businesses, strengthening industrial resilience and supporting high-quality jobs and manufacturing in Europe.

Energy efficiency is affordability - structurally reducing energy bills and making the clean energy transition more feasible for citizens, businesses and local authorities.

Energy efficiency is climate mitigation and resilience - cutting emissions while making our buildings, industry and the whole energy system better equipped to cope with the negative economic impact of a fast-changing climate.

Ahead of the legislative proposals expected at the end of this year, we, the undersigned industry associations and civil society organisations active at European and national level, call on you to design a post-2030 energy efficiency framework anchored by a 2040 binding EU energy efficiency target to ensure the regulatory stability, predictability and, by extension, the investment necessary to continue delivering the abovementioned benefits.

The EU already has a strong foundation to build on. The current energy efficiency framework has supported an industry employing around 1.2 million people¹ and more than 650 production sites across Europe; it has reduced households' energy bills and delivered substantial energy security benefits: without the efficiency improvements achieved over the past two decades, EU energy consumption would be around 29% higher.² Looking ahead, with the current architecture, the EU's fossil fuel import bill is projected to drop by €33 bn in 2030 and €70 bn by 2040 thanks to energy efficiency gains.³

Energy efficiency is also essential to accelerate and facilitate the energy transition by enabling the EU **to better size generation, grid capacity, storage and other infrastructure - allowing investment to be prioritised and targeted where it is most needed.** By reducing demand and peak loads, efficiency lowers the overall cost of clean energy deployment and makes electrification of buildings, transport and industry faster and more cost-effective. In addition, after this summer's heatwaves, and with cooling demand surging, a combination of passive and active energy efficiency solutions is needed to make our homes more comfortable and resilient, while reducing pressure on the energy system.

This is why energy efficiency, renewables and electrification must advance together; but neither a clean energy target nor an electrification target alone can replace a clear objective to reduce energy demand. **A binding final energy efficiency target for 2040 provides the consistent, long-term signal needed** to unlock investment, strengthen manufacturing and give businesses confidence to develop the skills, capacity and supply chains needed for the next decade. It is also essential to drive national measures that empower citizens to adopt energy efficiency solutions and reap their full benefits.

The post-2030 framework can evolve and improve where needed, particularly to ease implementation. But Europe should preserve what has proven to deliver: clear long-term objectives, translated into stable and predictable legislation enabled by targeted financing.

Energy efficiency is and should remain Europe's first fuel. In this moment of geopolitical instability and turbulence, energy efficiency is the European Union's first line of defence.

We therefore call on the European Commission to enshrine a **binding EU energy efficiency target for 2040** in Europe's post-2030 energy framework, due to be proposed by the end of the year.

We look forward to working with you to make energy efficiency a cornerstone of a more competitive, secure and prosperous European Union.

¹ [World Energy Employment 2024 – International Energy Agency.](#)

² [2025 assessment based on 2023 EU energy consumption data, see Odyssee-Mure project.](#)

³ [Energy Efficiency: A new impetus to reduce energy consumption](#)

Signatories - Logos



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Signatories - Full names

1. Associazione Nazionale Poliuretano Espanso rigido
2. Asociata Producatorilor Si Importatorilor De Vata Minerala Din Romania
3. Armacell
4. Bulgarian Association for Construction Insulation and Waterproofing
5. Bellona Europe
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23. Efficient Buildings Europe
24. European Geothermal Energy Council
25. European Heat Pump Association
26. European Industrial Insulation Foundation
27. Ekubirojs
28. Electra Energy
29. Energo-fort
30. Energy Efficiency for Europe
31. The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment
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35. Eurima
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38. Syndicat national des Fabricants d'Isolants en Laines Minérales Manufacturées
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41. Green Building Council España
42. Glass for Europe
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44. Greenpeace
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46. IF Isoleringsfirmornas Förening
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61. Mineral Wool Association Benelux
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66. Polish Association of Industrial Insulation Contractors
67. PU Europe
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72. Rockwool
73. Asociația pentru promovarea eficienței energetice în clădiri
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76. Sustainable Energy Finance Coalition
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92. WWF
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