



INSTITUTE  
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DEVELOPMENT



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Gunther Oettinger  
EU Commissioner for Energy  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B-1049 Brussels

### **For an effective EU-Energy Efficiency Action Plan and binding energy savings targets**

Dear Mr. Oettinger,

We are writing to you on behalf of a broad alliance of Polish environmental, civil organizations and organizations of professionals, to urgently request your support for an ambitious energy efficiency action plan and binding energy savings targets.

We strongly believe that the outstanding ecological and economic potential of energy efficiency can and must be implemented in a socially responsible and advantageous way that benefits all parts of society.

We notice with concern that the self-imposed EU energy savings target of 20% by 2020 has yet remained the only EU climate objective which is not binding. Accordingly, its implementation is currently not being pursued with sufficient efforts. Recent studies indicate that the EU will fail to achieve its energy savings target of 20% by more than half, if no further steps will be taken<sup>1</sup>.

A binding energy savings target would help to ensure that energy efficiency receives greater priority within the EU and its Member States. Moreover, Member States would have an incentive to implement EU directives in an ambitious way so that the target could still be achieved.

This would benefit both the people and the economy in the EU:

- **Climate and resource protection and energy security:** Energy efficiency conserves natural resources, reduces waste and emissions and protects the climate. A reduction of the European Union's energy consumption to the levels of 1990 would avoid the construction of

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<sup>1</sup> Ecofys & Fraunhofer ISI 2010: Energy Savings 2020 COM (2008) 772 final, Communication from the Commission, Energy efficiency: delivering the 20% target.

around 1,000 coal-fired power plants<sup>2</sup>. Only if reducing overall energy consumption, Europe will be able to achieve its long-term climate objectives and become more independent of energy imports.

- **Reduce energy costs for consumers and companies:** Increasing energy shortages and rising energy prices result in a growing number of private households which have difficulties in affording their energy costs. The competitiveness of the economy also suffers from high energy costs. More energy efficiency could lower energy costs for everyone. European consumers could save up to 1,000 € per year by using energy more efficiently, without sacrificing convenience<sup>3</sup>.
- **New energy efficiency markets:** As pioneers in green technologies, European companies can explore new markets and benefit from competitive advantages. However, this can only be achieved by creating sufficient investment security based on binding targets at both the European and the national level.
- **Green growth and job creation:** An ambitious energy efficiency policy can contribute to create jobs with a long-term perspective, especially at the regional level. More than a million jobs would be created in Europe, according to a study by the IFEU-Institute. Furthermore, growth would be decoupled from increased environmental degradation and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The European Union will, without any doubt, benefit from taking the self-imposed climate target seriously. Energy efficiency is indispensable to achieve Europe's long-term climate objectives, to reduce energy costs for consumers and companies, and to maintain and expand the technological leadership of the European economy.

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the European Parliament passed a clear vote for a binding energy savings target. We kindly ask you to support these efforts, so that the EU can still achieve its objective.

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly. We gladly provide our support on this issue and look forward to a productive dialogue.

With kind regards,



**FEWE** - The Polish Foundation for Energy Efficiency (FEWE- [www.fewe.pl](http://www.fewe.pl)) is a private, non-for-profit, non-governmental organization established in 1990. FEWE's mission is to promote economic development and protection of the natural environment through promotion of energy efficiency.



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The Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD - [www.ine-isd.org.pl](http://www.ine-isd.org.pl)) is a non-governmental think-tank type organization which was founded in 1990. ISD works for the promotion and implementation of the principles and solutions which contribute to Poland's sustainable development. In its activities, the Institute is guided by its mission to: build positive relations between socio-economic development and environmental protection and act in the interest of the present and future generations.



**KAPE** - The Polish National Energy Conservation Agency (KAPE- [www.kape.gov.pl](http://www.kape.gov.pl)) was established, following the Parliament resolution in 1994, with the aim to serve as a national sustainable energy agency. Our shareholders are the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, the Industrial Development Agency, The National Economy Bank. The mission of KAPE

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<sup>2</sup> COM (2008) 772 final, Energy efficiency: delivering the 20% target

is to develop and implement sustainable energy policies in Poland and playing a leading role in providing a wide range of sustainable energy services



**MAES** - Malopolska Regional Agency for Energy and Environment Management Ltd. (MAES- [www.maes.pl](http://www.maes.pl) ) is one of the agencies established in the frame of SABE II Programme (in 2000). The company shares belong to 2 public bodies: Municipal of Krakow and Malopolska Region. Agency is to provide public service aimed at encouraging good management of energy through energy efficiency, preparing energy plans and local energy policies, promoting energy efficiency investments, training in energy issues, preparing applications for project funding, promoting renewable energy sources and disseminating know-how.



**NAPE** - Narodowa Agencja Poszanowania Energii S.A. (National Energy Conservation Agency- [www.nape.pl](http://www.nape.pl) ) was created in 1994 as an initiative of Polish Energy Conservation Foundation and Polish Development Bank as the respond to the growing market demand for energy efficient investments in Poland. NAPE has collaborated with the PHARE, THERMIE, SAVE, IEE, FPs, Interreg EU Programs as well as with other international financial institutions working in a range of our interest in Poland.



**PTES** - The Polish Solar Energy Society –(PTES- [www.ptes-ises.itc.pw.edu.pl](http://www.ptes-ises.itc.pw.edu.pl) ) is the NGO voluntary, self-governing and non - profit organization, which was established in 1994 to foster the sciences and technology in the application of solar energy; to encourage solar energy fundamentals and applied research and development in the country.



**PZS** -Zwiazek Stowarzyszen Polska Zielona Siec (Polska Zielona Siec – PZS- [www.zielonasiec.p](http://www.zielonasiec.p) ) – Alliance of Associations Polish Green Network (Polish Green Network – PGN) is a national alliance of 10 strongest environmental and sustainable development associations and foundations based in the largest cities of Poland (Warszawa, Krakow, Lodz, Wroclaw, Lublin, Bialystok, Bielsko-Biala, Torun, Szczecin, Poznan) and a few partners (Warszawa, Wroclaw, Gliwice). PGN regularly cooperates with about 30 civic society organizations.



**SAPE** - (English name: Country-wide association “Energy and environment conservation”- [www.sape.org.pl](http://www.sape.org.pl) ) was created 2004 by 24 individual physical persons – scientists, experts, energy managers, who are active on diverse activity fields related with energy and environment conservation. Since 2005 SAPE is supported by 8 entities, whereof 6 are regional energy conservation agency, 1 is Energy Conservation Foundation and 1 is SME strongly connected with energy efficiency projects development and implementation. SAPE revenues are created by member’s fees and participation in international co-operation projects.

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The Letter was coordinated by Polish Section of Bellona Foundation.



The Bellona Foundation is an international environmental NGO based in Norway. Founded in 1986 as a direct action protest group, Bellona has become a recognised technology and solution-oriented organization with offices in Oslo, Brussels, Washington D.C., St. Petersburg and Murmansk. Altogether, some 75 engineers, ecologists, nuclear physicists, economists, lawyers, political scientists and journalists work at Bellona. [www.bellonapolska.org](http://www.bellonapolska.org)