



EUROPEAN ALLIANCE TO
SAVE ENERGY
Creating an Energy-Efficient Europe

Press Release

For immediate Release

Businesses welcome Energy Union and call the EU to open consultation on concrete steps to realize “efficiency first” approach



Brussels, 26 February 2015: As the providers of energy efficiency/demand management goods and services in Europe, the members of the European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE) today met the Vice-President of the European Commission, Maroš Šefčovič, to discuss the Energy Union Strategy published yesterday.

EU leaders have regularly acknowledged that the cheapest, cleanest energy is that which is not used¹. The vision set out in yesterday's Communication starts to reflect this, describing an

Energy Union in which energy efficiency is seen as a key driver of energy security, and 'an energy source in its own right'.

The Commission's vision opens the door to an “energy efficiency first” approach, in which demand side resources would be systematically considered in energy system planning, purchasing and investing, and given priority wherever they cost less or deliver more value to society than supply side alternatives. The Energy Union set out by the Commission could thus mark a turning point away from an energy system that is based on building or buying ever more supply,

The President of EU-ASE, Monica Frassoni, said “*We commend this vision, and called on Vice-President Šefčovič today to launch a formal consultation process with stakeholders to identify all decision points where energy efficiency solutions are undervalued or under-utilised, and to put in place solutions to this. In some cases continuation and better application of existing legislation will be sufficient; in other cases new mechanisms may be needed*”.

¹ For example: European Council Conclusions, “Strategic Agenda for the Union in Times of Change”, 27 June 2014 (www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/143478.pdf)

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EU-ASE also takes the opportunity to highlight the final report of the authoritative Energy Efficiency Financial Institutions Group (EEFIG), convened by the European Commission and UNEP Finance Initiative. Launched today, the report “Energy Efficiency – the first fuel for the EU Economy: how to drive new finance for energy efficiency investments”² provides a comprehensive set of recommendations on how to get investment flowing to support the growth of the European energy efficiency market.

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Notes to the editor

[EU-ASE](#) was established in December 2010 by some of Europe’s leading multinational companies. The Alliance creates a platform from which our companies (1E, Crupe, Danfoss, Ingersoll Rand, Kingspan, Knauf Insulation, Opower, Philips, Schneider Electric and Siemens) can join with politicians and thought leaders to ensure the voice of energy efficiency is heard from across the business and political community.

EU-ASE members have operations across the 28 Member States of the European Union, employ over 150.000 people in Europe and have an aggregated annual turnover of €70 billion.

² www.eefig.com