

Chambers express concern at very ambitious energy efficiency target

EUROCHAMBRES has mixed feelings on the highly ambitious binding target of at least 35% on energy efficiency, adopted by the European Parliament in plenary today.

The Chamber association basically welcomes the European Parliament's decision to lower the energy efficiency target to a more reasonable level than proposed by the ITRE Committee in November. However, it underlines the need to bear in mind that such an ambitious compulsory ceiling for energy savings comes with a number of risks that must be addressed in the forthcoming trilogue negotiations. These include interference with other energy and climate policy objectives, as well as the functioning of the ETS. Moreover, it could impede economic growth, if not allowing for sufficient flexibility in times of production increases.

Arnaldo Abruzzini, CEO of EUROCHAMBRES, commented: *“Ultimately, it also has to be considered that many of the low hanging fruits for efficiency improvements have already been harvested. A 35% target would, however, require more significant energy savings than in previous years. Such a progressive development is only possible if Europeans radically change their lifestyle, but this should not be forced on them by much higher energy prices or frequent power cuts.”*

Chambers now call on the trilogue negotiators to address these issues effectively and keep the energy efficiency target at a reasonable level.

Further information: Mr Michael Steurer, Tel. +32 2 282 08 77, steurer@eurochambres.eu
Press contact: Mr Luis Piselli, Tel. +32 2 282 08 92, piselli@eurochambres.eu
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