

Energy Efficiency Plan: Chambers endorse focus on swift implementation rather than binding targets

EUROCHAMBRES today welcomed the Commission's Energy Efficiency Plan and endorsed the focus on the effective and accelerated implementation of existing measures, rather than making the EU's energy efficiency target mandatory.

"Given current international tensions, the renewed EU focus on energy efficiency is legitimate," said Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES. *"Increased energy efficiency is a cost-effective way to reduce our dependence on oil and gas imports."*

Meeting the existing 20% increased energy efficiency target could also substantially contribute to emissions reductions by 2020. Chambers believe that increased energy efficiency can be best achieved through a focus on practical measures, rather than a mandatory target.

Mr Abruzzini continued: *"The introduction of binding targets would create uncertainty and administrative burdens. Businesses, especially smaller ones, need more information and financial incentives to increase the uptake of energy audits and to ensure effective follow-up measures."*

According to a recent EUROCHAMBRES* survey, only a quarter of companies have undertaken an energy audit or used an energy consultant. In countries such as Austria, Belgium or Germany, where companies receive public funding for energy audits, the percentage of those having taken such a service is considerably higher than in those countries where such schemes are not offered.

* The survey, which was also cited in the Energy Efficiency Plan, was conducted in the framework of the CHANGE project, coordinated by EUROCHAMBRES, delivered by 60 Chambers in 12 European countries and co-financed through the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme. CHANGE has helped SMEs optimise their energy use through the development of a European network of Intelligent Energy advisors.

Further information: Ms Marlene Gündler, Tel. +32 2 282 08 77, guendler@eurochambres.eu
Press contact: Ms Guendalina Cominotti, Tel. +32 2 282 08 66, cominotti@eurochambres.eu
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