

PRESS RELEASE

End-use Energy Efficiency: Business opposes Rothe Report

EUROCHAMBRES criticized the vote in the EP's Industry Committee on MEP Mechthild Rothe's report on the End-use Energy Efficiency directive today. If adopted in the Plenary, the report will introduce not only mandatory but also stricter targets than those foreseen by the European Commission and might have negative effects on economic growth, Chambers say.

Paul Skehan, Deputy Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, stated: *"If implemented in this way the directive will lead to more bureaucracy and to competition distortions. Energy consumers will be burdened with considerable costs - especially SMEs. We need exactly the opposite – less regulation!"*

Binding targets will increase bureaucracy

In particular, EUROCHAMBRES is against the setting of quantitative targets for energy saving. This could open the door to extensive state-controlled steering of energy resources, thus contravening market economy principles.

Furthermore, the massive documentation and monitoring requirements are out of proportion to any resulting benefit.

Member States not on equal footing

Energy efficiency levels in the Member States differ considerably. While EU-wide standardised saving targets can be met in a cost-saving manner or at no cost in one Member State, a binding savings target may well lead to substantial additional costs in other EU countries. This puts consumers at a particular disadvantage in countries that have made investments in energy efficiency in the past as further savings can only be achieved at higher costs than in countries with low energy efficiency levels.

EUROCHAMBRES called on the Council to take up the EPP-ED proposal of benchmarks for energy saving as this would lead to less red tape and introduce more fairness.

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