

PRESSE RELEASE – for immediate use

European leaders must recognise energy efficiency as a springboard for sustainable growth

Brussels 22 May 2012: The informal European Heads of State or Government Summit on 23rd May in Brussels will discuss a strategy for growth. At a time when leaders are urgently looking for a way out of the current economic crisis, President Van Rompuy highlights the added value of the Energy Efficiency Directive, currently under pressure from national governments.

Speaking ahead of the Summit, Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General of the Coalition for Energy Savings, said: *"Leaders must pave the way for much higher investments to realise fallow energy saving potentials. Doing so would immediately create jobs, increase public revenues, generate cost savings for all and contribute to the European model of the future: environmentally friendly, economically strong and increasingly independent. The Energy Efficiency Directive, which could do that, must be rescued from austerity."*

The Commission President and several Member State leaders – most recently François Hollande, have identified the need to complement budgetary discipline with investments to stimulate growth and create jobs.

Members of the Coalition for Energy Savings, that brings together business, professional and civil society associations, have urged the presidents of European Council and Commission to give serious consideration to the Energy Efficiency Directive at this summit. The Directive, under pressure from national governments, has the potential to act as a springboard for sustainable growth in Europe.

Closing the gap to Europe's 20% energy saving target would create non-exportable, local jobs, immediate cost savings for consumers and governments, and a stronger, more efficient economy, resilient to fossil fuel imports and price dependency. Energy savings will also help deliver fiscal policy commitments and contribute to maintaining Europe's industrial competitiveness.

A strong Directive is needed to bring Europe on track to its 20% energy savings target by 2020. This will regenerate investor confidence and unlock private sector financing for new European infrastructure developments and the renovation of the European building stock, both creating large volumes of high quality jobs.

But the Council's provisional position on the Energy Efficiency Directive would only close 1/3 of the target gap. Tomorrow Member States representatives will discuss a new proposal by the Danish presidency with increased ambition (See Note to Editors).

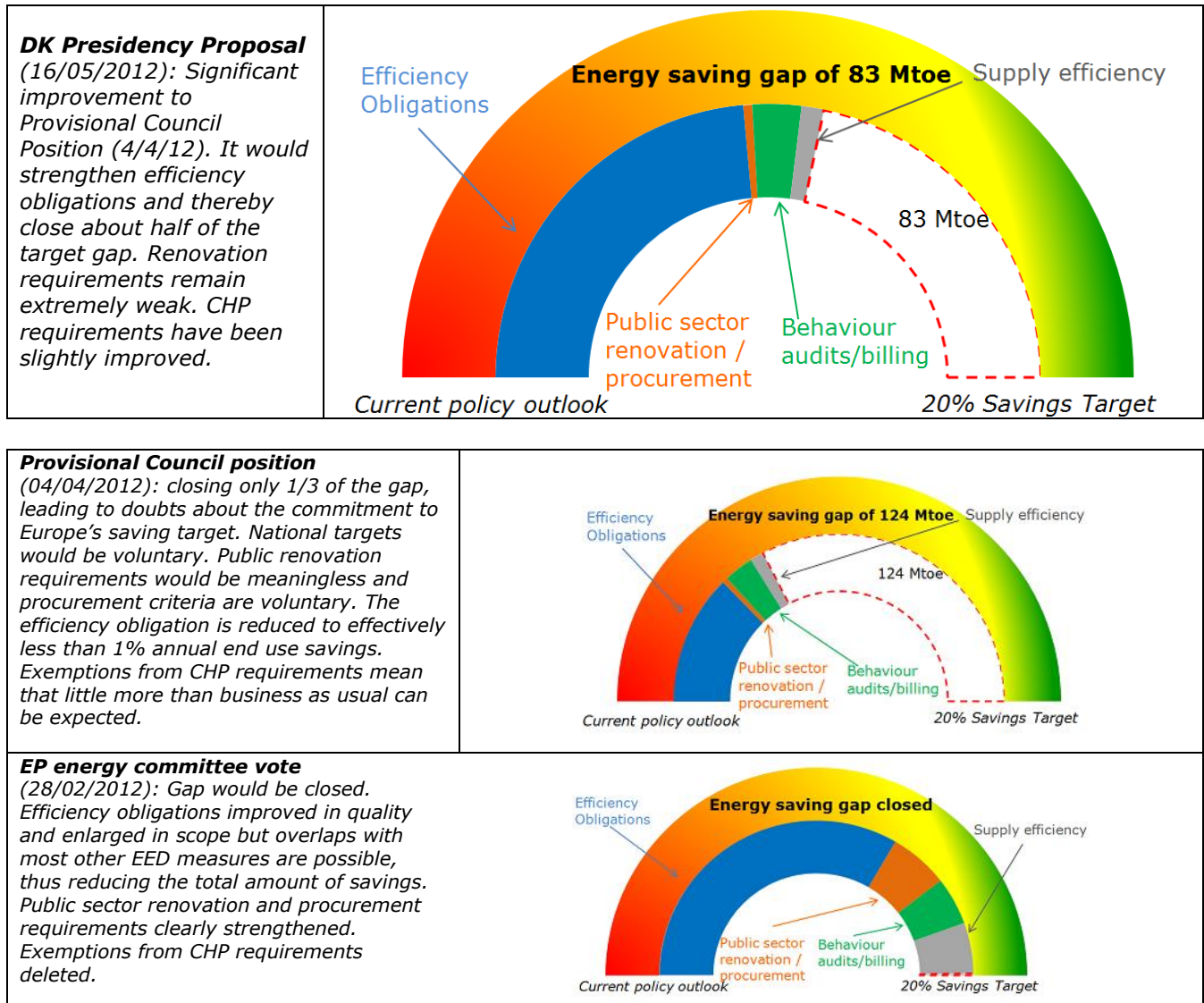
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Members of the Coalition for Energy Savings: *The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE), ClientEarth, Climate Action Network – Europe (CAN-Europe), COGEN Europe, Energy Cities, European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE), The European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EuroACE), The European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE), European Association of Polyurethane Insulation Manufacturers (PU Europe), The European Climate Foundation, The European Committee of Domestic Equipment Manufacturers (CECED), European Copper Institute, The European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (eceee), European Environmental Bureau (EEB), The European Federation for Intelligent Energy Efficiency Services (EFIEES), The European Insulation Manufacturers Association (Eurima), European Lamp Companies Federation (ELCF), The European Liaison Committee For Social Housing (CECODHAS), Friends of the Earth Europe, Glass for Europe, WWF*

The Coalition for Energy Savings brings together business, professional, local authorities and civil society associations. The Coalition's purpose is to make the case for a European energy policy that places a much greater, more meaningful emphasis on energy efficiency and savings. In particular it is arguing for the current 20% energy efficiency target to be binding.

Note to Editors: EU Energy Savings Gapometer

The EU is expected to miss by half its energy saving target of 368 Mtoe by 2020¹. The gap is around 190 Mtoe in 2020. The **Gapometer** estimates how far different measures in the Energy Efficiency Directive are expected to close this gap. The estimates are based on the Commission's Impact Assessment, own calculations and expected use of regulatory flexibilities and exemptions.



For more details, see <http://energycoalition.eu/how-does-it-work>.

¹ In 2007 European Council made the commitment to achieve 20% energy savings by 2020, based on projections available at that time. This means saving 368 Mtoe and staying below an overall consumption of 1,474 Mtoe. In 2010 the European Summit reconfirmed the target, noting the Commission's findings that with current policies only half of target would be achieved.