

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

Brussels, June 23th, 2011



“The EED Directive¹ must constitute a great step towards the transition for efficient and integrated energy production and consumption ,,

Europe is at a crossroads with massive needs for new investments into energy infrastructures, constrained budgets and with the additional 2050 challenge to move towards a low carbon society.

The undersigned associations, representing a broad range of heat producers and users, are supportive of the efforts of the European Commission to move efficiency and heat higher up the political agenda.

Heat is indeed a sector where the potential for energy savings is significant and we welcome the recognition by the Directive that energy savings in heat and cooling supply and demand can be significant and constitute a priority. What matters is to decrease green house gas production, increase in energy efficiency, use wasted energy and increase use of renewable energy, all constituting the energy mix each local community has to optimise. The undersigned associations are concerned however that if the Directive recognises for the first time that energy solutions are to be found for each local territory, the chosen approach will only deliver expected results if there is really a clear room for a choice representing the best local solution. In addition, obligations can only deliver expected results if adequate funding and financial instruments attached to it, which the Directive is currently forgetting to address.

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¹ http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/eed/doc/2011_directive/com_2011_0370_en.pdf

Explanatory note

Actors for a local energy agenda react to the Energy efficiency Directive published today

“The EED Directive must constitute a great step towards the transition for efficient and integrated energy production and consumption”, and a major tool for an EU policy aimed at promotion of heat and energy demand-side management.

Europe is at a crossroads with massive needs for new investments into energy infrastructures, constrained budgets and with the additional 2050 challenge to move towards a low carbon society.

The undersigned associations, representing a broad range of heat producers and users, are fully supportive of the efforts of the European Commission to move efficiency and heat higher up the political agenda.

Heat is indeed a sector where the potential for energy savings is significant and can be tackled in a cost-effective manner by proven applications with the highest efficiency in terms of primary energy use. We hope very much that the proposal Energy Efficiency Directive will be an important piece of legislation to allow the realization of the 2020 targets and to move closer to a resource efficient and low carbon energy sector. Therefore, we call upon policy-makers in the negotiations to be very attentive to the following points to ensure a future result-oriented implementation of the Directive.

1. Making the energy system more efficient by reap the full benefits of more decentralisation based on energy efficiency, the associations believe it is important to strictly align policy actions to primary energy savings, with a view to securing respect of the energy hierarchy, which can be defined as the “3 Re’s”: Reduce energy consumption, recycle energy that otherwise would be lost and replace fossil fuels with renewable energies.

2. Focus on heat both as demand sector and as a resource. Heat is the major end-use of energy in the European Union and cooling demand is also set to grow dramatically. Attention to energy efficiency along the full supply chain is required, as the potential for using surplus heat as a resource is indeed enormous: at current oil prices, the economic value of heat losses in the European energy balance amounts to as much as 480 billion Euros! Recovering even part of these losses by means of cogeneration and district heating would greatly benefit the Union’s competitiveness. The associations therefore welcome the intention to make sure cogeneration is used to the largest possible extent and the development of local energy infrastructures including heat networks supported. To achieve this, the Directive needs to be assorted with proper financing instruments, also with a view to keeping the overall energy expenses for households at affordable levels.

3. Empowering citizens and local authorities. Sustainability calls for citizens’ engagement. By further empowering citizens and reaffirming the key role at the local level, we will enable informed choices to be made and innovative models to emerge. It is therefore paramount that the role of the local level is being fully recognised and promoted. The Covenant of Mayors has been a milestone in the recognition of the local level, and today this Directive will be a catalyst for change through the systematic development of heat mapping across Europe and the further involvement of cities. The associations encourage the EU and Member States to re-consider cities and citizens and to support them in experimenting with new, voluntary, democratic and integrated ways of organizing energy supply and acceptance-building and leveraging bottom-up solutions.

The undersigned associations are concerned however that the chosen approach will not deliver expected results as it is focussing on obligations decided at the top, leaving no room for a choice representing the best local solution. What matters is to decrease green house gas production, increase in energy efficiency, use wasted energy and increase use of renewable energy, all constituting the energy mix each local community has to optimise.

In order to improve the proposal with the aim of delivering the expected results, the undersigned associations are looking forward to a fruitful dialogue with policy-makers and stakeholders and will soon provide more input to the debate.



The associations:

Euroheat & Power is the international association representing the district heating and cooling (DHC) sector in Europe and beyond.

Cecodhas Housing Europe is the Federation of social, cooperative and public housing, a network of national and regional social housing federations

CEWEP is the European umbrella association of Waste-to-Energy Plants. They thermally treat household and similar waste (not suitable for recycling) and transform it into energy, which is delivered to citizens and industry.

COGEN Europe is the European Association for the Promotion of Cogeneration. Its principal goal is to work towards the wider use of cogeneration in Europe for a sustainable energy future

EFIEES is the European Federation of Intelligent Energy Efficiency Services, represents private companies (Energy Efficiency Services Companies, EESCs) providing an overall energy management service to enduser.

Energy Cities is the European Association of local authorities inventing their energy future.

