

ROUNDTABLE WITH COALITION OF ENERGY SAVINGS

ON 'FIT FOR 55' PACKAGE

1 March, 15:00-16:30, videoconference

OPENING REMARKS

- Good afternoon everyone, I'm very glad to see many participants to this roundtable. This is obviously a very timely opportunity to discuss the Energy Efficiency Directive in the context of the Fit for 55 package.
- Energy efficiency will continue to play a key role in decarbonising Europe's economy and society by 2050. This was also highlighted in the **European Green Deal** communication, which **asked to prioritise energy efficiency**. The **Energy Efficiency Directive (EED)** is a central instrument towards the green transition.
- The **Climate Target Plan** has given estimates for necessary energy efficiency efforts [36-37% for the final energy and 39-41% for primary energy consumption]. To this end, our current task is clear – to ensure with the EED revision that the required energy efficiency efforts are achieved in a cost-effective way.
- As part of the revision process, the Commission has carried out the evaluation of the entire Directive. The findings indicate that it remains a key policy instrument in view of a higher climate target, but it needs to be adapted to reap the savings potential and multiple additional benefits. This includes synergies with other Green Deal initiatives, such as the revised Renewable Energy Directive, the Renovation Wave and the Energy Sector Integration strategies.
- We are therefore looking at various options on how the EED provisions could be strengthened. We have already advanced in

the impact assessment and we will shortly submit it to the Regulatory Scrutiny Board.

- We have also gained valuable knowledge through the **open public consultation** – and I would like to thank you for taking part in it. This discussion today will help us finalise the impact assessment. I am ready to better understand your expectations per topic and provisions that the Directive covers.
- Areas like energy efficiency obligation schemes, heating and cooling, and public buildings are particularly relevant because of the role they play or the possibilities they offer for energy efficiency and energy savings. We also need solutions for sectors with growing energy consumption like transport and ICT.
- As announced in the Renovation Wave, we will propose to extend the renovation obligation to all public administration levels besides central government. A similar approach could be relevant for public procurement (which puts obligations only on central government authorities at the moment).
- As regards Article 7 on energy efficiency obligation schemes, a very clear-cut option would be to increase the level of yearly energy savings above the existing 0.8%.
- Concerning heating and cooling, we really need to update Article 14 in order to increase both final and primary energy efficiency in heating and cooling supply. Clearly there is further potential in district heating and waste heat utilisation.
- One concern I have – and this is very important to me and also a priority of this Commission – is to keep the administrative burden in check. In this context, we are looking for robust policies. This also includes a need for streamlined monitoring and verification mechanisms to ensure solid data.

- Finally, the **Energy Efficiency First principle (EE1st)** will be a central element of EED and, as you know, the Commission is also preparing specific guidelines to help policy makers and market entities to apply the principle in energy related policy planning and investments. Here as well, your input on what EE1st should mean and how it could become operational is valuable and timely.
- With these indications from my side, I would now like to focus on your contributions. Thank you for finding the time for today's roundtable, and, the floor is yours.

CLOSING REMARKS [AFTER INTERVENTIONS BY PARTICIPANTS]

- Thank you so much everybody for this active discussion.
- It has been very interesting to listen to your views on the **energy efficiency targets and its nature**. As we all know, it has been a controversial issue when the EED was negotiated in the past.
- I have indeed taken note that a majority of respondents in the Open Public Consultation thought that it would be important to have binding targets at national level.
- At the same time we are aware that the right level of targets at national level is difficult to assess, and, there is a big opposition by many Member States. Only two Member States expressed their support for the binding targets in the public consultation.
- For me it is clear, that the national energy efficiency targets will continue to play a role, and their nature will be determined in the negotiations towards the adoption.
- The spotlight on EU and national energy efficiency policies will become brighter also due to **Energy Efficiency First Principle** guidance that we are working with in parallel to the EED.
- Needless to say, we need to increase the ambition of the EED, and I expect a large share of energy savings needed for the increased climate ambition to come from **Article 7** implementation.
- There's a lot of detail about Article 7 and I am very grateful for your views. In the impact assessment we will look closely at both higher values of the annual energy savings, and more robust setup of the provisions.

- For buildings, I have already said the aim is clear since the Renovation Wave – to extend the renovation obligation of the **public buildings**. The question remains, how to do it in the most cost-effective way, and without losing quality in the process. Needless to say, many of the issues raised might be addressed with the EPBD revision, later this year.
- Probably the biggest challenge of law-making will also be related to buildings, but also industry. This is **heating and cooling** where we need to put together efforts from ETS, EED, RED, EPBD, eco-design and energy labelling.
- Finally, the discussion on **transport** will continue tomorrow, when I have a similar roundtable with Green 10 NGOs, and internally I would also point out a strong cooperation between the energy and transport services of the Commission.
- And here I would like to draw the roundtable to an end. Thank you for all your contributions, and I'm looking forward to our future discussions.