Subject: Joint cross-sector support for Energy Efficiency as a Facilitator of Energy Independence

Dear Director-General Ditte Juul Jørgensen,

We, the undersigned organisations, are welcoming the discussions on launching a high-level working group in the Council of the EU that will work on the issue of improving the Union’s energy independence.

With this letter, as stakeholders in the energy sector, we wish to call on EU policy-makers and national governments to acknowledge the positive contribution of energy efficiency technologies as cornerstones of Europe’s strategy and actions in reducing our strategic energy dependence ahead of the next EU mandate (2024-2029).

The integration of energy efficiency measures is not only crucial for reducing strategic dependencies but also significantly beneficial for households across the EU amidst the current cost of living crisis. Implementing these technologies will increase the efficient energy use in buildings in general, substantially lower energy bills, providing direct financial relief to citizens while ensuring a more comfortable living environment. The Energy Efficiency First Principle is a prerequisite to enable the European Union to become climate neutral by 2050.

With the new mandate of the European Commission and Parliament, Europe stands at a crossroads to solidify its position as a competitive, independent and free from international interferences entity. Energy efficiency is an area in which Europe excels, as evidenced by our global leadership and stable legislative framework.

However, we believe that energy efficiency has still not been given the necessary attention in the EU’s energy strategy. For example, the REPowerEU Plan puts more focus on short term energy savings to cope with the imminent energy crisis but did not target potential significant long-term improvements that structured energy efficiency policies can bring. It is essential that the EU, when working to improve energy independence, takes full account of the recently agreed Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) and Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) as vehicles to realise the large energy savings potential that lies in our existing building stock.

Energy efficiency offers benefits and solutions not only in terms of reducing energy consumption and emissions, but also in enhancing the resilience and sustainability of the entire energy system - creating synergies for Europe’s grid operators, industries and households, as Europe electrifies its economy.

We would like to express support for the creation of a high-level working group on improving the EU’s energy independence, and call for the full integration of energy efficiency measures into it, which will improve our energy security, the financial well-being of European citizens, and enhance the completeness of the European energy market.

As cross-sector partners, we offer our support to the work of this group, deliver on our commitments to the effective implementation of the EED and the EPBD, and provide input on how to make energy efficiency a tool for independence of every Member State.

We thank you for your consideration and we are ready to provide you with further support and present our main asks and suggestions at a meeting with you or your teams at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,
Coalition for Energy Savings

The Coalition for Energy Savings is a European non-for-profit association striving to make energy efficiency and energy savings the first consideration of energy policies. The Coalition advocates energy efficiency as the driving force towards a secure, competitive, sustainable and climate neutral European Union. The Coalition unites businesses, local authorities, energy agencies, energy communities and civil society organisations in pursuit of this goal.

Efficient Buildings Europe

Efficient Buildings Europe is the leading European industry association, dedicated to advancing energy efficiency in European buildings. We collaborate closely with stakeholders to shape the future of energy efficiency and drive the transition towards zero emission buildings. Our members are industry leaders specializing in a diverse array of energy efficient solutions that enhance the performance of buildings throughout the entire value chain.

European Alliance to Save Energy

The European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE) is a cross-sectorial multi-stakeholder business-led alliance promoting the role of energy efficiency across the whole EU energy system, from generation and local production to end use. The membership of EU-ASE brings together businesses and thought leaders, with a cross-party group of members of the European Parliament.

European Insulation Manufacturers Association

Established in 1959 to create a favourable business environment for mineral wool insulation and promote improved standards for insulation materials, Eurima is a research-driven organisation whose industry members produce a wide range of mineral wool products for thermal and acoustic insulation, providing fire protection of domestic and commercial buildings and industrial facilities while offering innovative growing media and green-roofing solutions.

Glass for Europe

Glass for Europe brings together multinational firms and thousands of SMEs across Europe, to represent the whole building glass value-chain. It is composed of flat glass manufacturers, AGC Glass Europe, Guardian, NSG-Group, Saint-Gobain, and Şişecam, and works in association with national partners gathering thousands of building glass processors and transformers all over Europe.