



Brussels, 17th May 2013

**European Council 22nd May 2013 on
Energy and Competitiveness**

Priority for renewable energy and energy efficiency needed to respond to crisis

Dear President of the European Council,
Dear EU Heads of State or Government,
Dear President of the European Commission,
Dear President of the European Parliament,

At your meeting on 22nd of May you will debate the key issue of energy policy and competitiveness.

The Coalition for Energy Savings¹, the European Renewable Energy Council² and the Climate Action Network Europe³, representing the key energy savings, renewable energy and climate change mitigation stakeholders in Europe believe that the special European Council session on energy and competitiveness is an opportunity to foster a comprehensive understanding of interlinked issues such as the economic and financial crisis, the climate crisis and the unemployment crisis.

The three organisations call on you to recognise the role of energy efficiency and renewable energy in overcoming these crises by boosting competitiveness, creating jobs and protecting the environment.

The Energy Efficiency Directive is a step in the right direction. It is worth €200 billion net savings per year for households and businesses if it is fully implemented and closes the gap to the EU's energy efficiency target.

Today the renewable energy sector contributes 1% to the EU's GDP, avoids using about 130 Mtoe of fossil fuels, has an annual economic activity of more than €130 billion and employs about 1 million

1 The Coalition for Energy Savings is the EU umbrella organisation for energy savings bringing together business, professional, local authorities, trade union and civil society organisations.

2 The European Renewable Energy Council is the EU umbrella organisation for renewable energy bringing together the entire renewable energy industry, trade and research sector.

3 The Climate Action Network Europe is the European umbrella coalition for climate issues bringing together environment and development NGOs.

people. This will further increase to 2.7 million employees and boost net GDP growth by an additional 0.25% by the end of this decade.

The European Union has the unique opportunity to leap into a new economic era of sustainable growth, jobs and innovation. We believe that Europe's competitiveness needs to be discussed not by narrowing it to energy prices, but by addressing our economies' energy productivity improvement and renewable energy potential, the urgency of climate mitigation and the tremendous energy trade deficit in general. We need to boost Europe's competitiveness by tapping its largest indigenous energy resources: energy savings and renewable energy, which will increase energy productivity and reduce our massive €423 billion energy trade deficit. This will allow reinvesting in Europe to create new jobs and secure industrial leadership.

Thanks to dedicated policies, EU businesses, including large to small- and medium-sized enterprises, specialised at an early stage in the supply and deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and services which are characterised by high labour and knowledge intensity and learning potential. This helped the EU to establish a first mover advantage.

But international competitors like China, South Korea, the U.S., Japan or emerging economies in Latin America are accelerating and investing heavily with ambitious and dedicated climate and energy policies already in place.

European policy makers need to ensure that the EU is fully equipped for this competition.

Furthermore, early investment in reducing greenhouse gas emissions will reduce both the costs and the risks linked to climate change. As recent World Bank and IMF reports have shown, the current lack of action will have dire social, environmental and economic impacts, many times bigger than the current financial crisis.

We therefore call on you to take a broad and forward looking view on energy policies and competitiveness and to examine the opportunities of investing in renewable energy and tapping the large remaining energy saving potentials as a strategic response to Europe's structural competitiveness and economic challenges.

Yours faithfully,



Stefan Scheuer
Secretary General
Coalition for Energy Savings



Josche Muth
Secretary General
EREC



Wendel Trio
Director
CAN Europe

Members of the Coalition for Energy Savings

Architects' Council of Europe (ACE)

Building Performance Institute Europe (BPIE)

ClientEarth

Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-Europe)

COGEN Europe

E3G

Energy Cities

European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EuroACE)

European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE)

European Association of Polyurethane Insulation Manufacturers (PU Europe)

European Climate Foundation

European Committee of Domestic Equipment Manufacturers (CECED)

European Copper Institute

European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (eceee)

European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

European Federation for Intelligent Energy Efficiency Services (EFIEES)

European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW)

European Insulation Manufacturers Association (Eurima)

European Federation of Public, Cooperative & Social Housing (CECODHAS Housing Europe)

European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE)

Friends of the Earth Europe

Glass for Europe

LightingEurope

Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)

Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)

WWF

Members of the European Renewable Energy Council

AEBIOM	European Biomass Association
EGEC	European Geothermal Energy Council
EPIA	European Photovoltaic Industry Association
EREF	European Renewable Energies Federation
ESHA	European Small Hydropower Association
ESTELA	European Solar Thermal Electricity Association
ESTIF	European Solar Thermal Industry Federation
EUBIA	European Biomass Industry Association
EUREC	European Association of Renewable Energy Research Centres
EWEA	European Wind Energy Association

Members of CAN-Europe

11.11.11 - Coalition of the Flemish North-South Movement
Danish 92-Group
Airclim - Air Pollution and Climate Secretariat (Sweden)
Alliance Sud - Swiss Alliance of Development Organisations
Amici dellaTerra Italia - FoE Italy
Amigos de la Tierra Espana - FoE Spain
ASTM - Third world solidarity (Luxembourg)
BBL - Flemish Union for Better Environment
Both ENDS (Netherlands)
Bread for the World (Germany)
BUND - FoE Germany
CAAG - Clean Air Action Group (Hungary)
CAFOD (UK)

Campaign against Climate Change UK
CARE Danmark
CDE - Centre for Transport and Energy (Czech Republic)
Christian Aid UK
CIDSE - Cooperation for Development and Solidarity
CIWF - Compassion in World Farming
ClientEarth
Climate Analytics
CNCD – National Centre for Development Cooperation (Belgium)
Concerned Citizens against Climate Change (Netherlands)
DCA - DanChurchAid
DCG - Drylands Coordination Group (Norway)
DEC - Danish Ecological Council
DF - The Development Fund (Norway)
Oro Verde (Germany)
DKM - Nature Conservation Centre (Turkey)
DNR - German League for Nature and Environment
E3G - Third Generation Environmentalism
Earthwatch - FoE Ireland
Ecologic Institute (Germany)
Ecologistas en Accion (Spain)
Eco-Union (Spain)
EIA - Environmental Investigation Agency (UK)
FANC - Finnish Association for Nature Conservation
FIELD - Foundation for International Environmental Law (UK)
FoEE - Friends of the Earth Europe
Fokus - Association for Sustainable Development
ForuM for development and environment (Norway)
German NGO Forum on Environment and Development
Future in our Hands (Norway)
Friends of the Earth - England Wales and Northern Ireland
Germanwatch

Global 2000 - FoE Austria
Glopolis - Prague Global Policy Institute
Greenpeace Central and Eastern Europe
Greenpeace European Unit
Greenpeace Greece
Greenpeace Luxembourg
Greenpeace Spain
Greenpeace UK
GRIAN - Greenhouse Ireland Action Network
Helio International
HIVOS – Humanistic Organisation for Development Cooperation (Netherlands)
IEEP - Institute for European Environmental Policy
IEW - Inter-Environment Wallonie
INCA - Iceland Nature Conservation Association
Indyact Austria
KEPA - The Service Centre for Development Cooperation (Finland)
FCA Finnish Church Aid
Legambiente (Italy)
LIFE - Women develop Eco-Techniques (Germany)
Luonto-Liitto - The Finnish Nature League
MEDSOS - Mediterranean SOS Network (Greece)
Misereor Germany)
MY - FoE Finland
NABU - Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (germany)
Nature and Youth (FoE youth)
Nature Trust Malta
Natuurpunt (Belgium)
NC - Nature Code-Centre of Development and Environment
NCA - Norwegian Church Aid
Noe21 - New Orientation for the Economy in the 21st century (Switzerland)
Norges Naturvernforbund - FoE Norway
OCP - Oxford Climate Policy

OKO Institut - Institut für angewandte ökologie (Germany)
ONE (UK)
OVE - The Danish Organization for Renewable Energy
Oxfam International
Practical Action (UK)
Pro Natura - FoE Switzerland
Progressio (UK)
QUERCUS - National Association for Nature Conservation (Portugal)
RAC France - Climate Action Network France
RACRO - CAN Romania
Save the children Norway
Rainforest Foundation Norway
RSPB - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (UK)
Sandbag (UK)
Save the children UK
Seas at Risk (UK)
SNM – Nature and Environment Foundation (Netherlands)
SSNC - Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
ETC Foundation (Netherlands)
Church of Sweden - Christian Aid
Tearfund (UK)
TEMA - Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion
TI - Transparency International
Trócaire (Ireland)
UKYCC - UK Youth Climate Coalition
VERTIC (UK)
VS - Forests of the World (Denmark)
WCC - World Council of Churches
WECF - Women in Europe for a Common Future
WEED - World Economy (Germany)
Welthungerhilfe (Germany)
WFC - World Future Council (Germany)

WSPA - The World Society for the Protection of Animals

Wuppertal Institute for climate environment energy

WWF Belgium

WWF Denmark

WWF Germany

WWF EPO - European Policy Office

WWF Finland

WWF Italy

WWF Netherlands

WWF Poland

WWF Sweden

WWF Switzerland

WWF UK

Za Zemiata (Bulgaria)