



Kris Peeters

Minister-President of the Flemish Government
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Brussels, 4 June 2012

Dear Minister-President,

Re: The position of Flanders on the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED)

On 15 June, European Energy Ministers will meet to discuss the European Council's position on the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED)¹. In advance of this meeting, we, the undersigned, individual leaders of European businesses and other leading organizations, are writing to you to ensure that the negotiations around this important legislative proposal will result in a forward looking and ambitious piece of legislation.

The EU needs a strong framework for energy efficiency to help deliver its fiscal policy commitments, maintain its industrial competitiveness, create jobs and enable it's economies to become more sustainable, inclusive and resource efficient. The Energy Efficiency Directive is the right and best tool to deliver this; it has the potential to trigger a €34 billion increase in the EU's gross domestic product by 2020, reduce fuel expenditure by €38 billion annually and create up to 2 million jobs² over the period 2011-2020. In addition, activities stimulated by a strong EED will boost Europe's manufacturing and employment base and new jobs created or retained, particularly in building renovation, will be qualified and local. Many of these jobs will be created in the Flemish region.

However, we understand that some key measures of the proposal (notably articles 3a, 4 and 6) have not yet generated as much support as we believe is required to match the above described level of ambition.

We are convinced that a long term perspective for building renovations (public and private) will create jobs, boost the commercial and residential retrofit market and give a long term perspective for investments.

Energy Savings Obligation Schemes will instead support the development of a market of energy services and help create new business models for utilities and boost investments while sharing costs among energy companies, consumers and public authorities.

¹ Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on energy efficiency and repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC

² European Commission: Impact Assessment accompanying the EED, June 2011 : p.28

In view of the fact that we value very much a strong position of all Belgian authorities in this discussion, we would very much appreciate the possibility to have an exchange of views and present to you some of our positive experiences.

In this perspective, we look forward to the possibility and privilege to meeting you.

Kind regards,



Monica Frassoni, President of the European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE)



Andrea Voigt, EPEE Director General

Peter Tulkens, Head of Public Affairs for the Benelux, Knauf Insulation



Danny Jacobs, Director of Bond Beter Leefmilieu Vlaanderen vzw



Damien Vincent, CEO WWF-Belgium

In Copy

Raf Suys, Head of Cabinet of the Minister-President

Freya Van den Bossche, Flemish Minister for Energy, Housing, Cities and Social Economy

Jan Haers, Flemish Energy Agency

About the European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE)

EU-ASE was established in December 2010 by some of Europe's leading multinational companies (Danfoss, Philips, Schneider Electric, Knauf Insulation, Siemens and 1E). The Alliance creates a platform from which our companies can join with politicians and thought leaders to ensure the voice of energy efficiency is heard from across the business and political community.

About EPEE

The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE) represents the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump industry in Europe. Founded in the year 2000, EPEE's membership is composed of 40 member companies and national associations across Europe realising a turnover of over 30 billion Euros and employing more than 200,000 people in Europe.

As an expert association, EPEE is supporting safe, environmentally and economically viable technologies with the objective of promoting a better understanding of the sector in the EU and contributing to the development of effective European policies. www.epeeglobal.org

About WWF

WWF is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organizations, with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

About Bond Beter Leefmilieu

Bond Beter Leefmilieu (Federation for a Better Environment) is the pluralistic and independent federation of more than 140 national and local associations involved in nature and the environment in Flanders, Belgium. Working from civil society, we are committed to an affluent nature and a diverse landscape, a green and healthy living environment in both countryside and city, and production and consumption patterns with consideration for the capacity of our earth. BBL works from the following vision to sustainable development: fair distribution of prosperity and environmental usage space, in Flanders and elsewhere, now and in the future. Our operation is directed at supporting and assisting our associations, at influencing policies of government and societal organisations, and at sustaining behaviour of the broad public and target groups.

About Knauf Insulation

The Knauf group is a German 100% family-owned manufacturer of buildings materials and construction systems. The group employs over 23.000 and has 150 factories all over the world. Knauf Insulation, part of the Knauf group, is present in more than 35 countries with 30 production plants and employs over 5000 persons. In Belgium Knauf is strongly present with several factories and offers employment to more than 700 persons, of which 150 in Flanders. The Belgian activities of the Knauf group (plasterboard, insulation) made a turnover figure of 450 million euro. In Belgium Knauf Insulation is the only global insulation company of this size and production capacity. The Belgian insulation plant has the largest glass mineral wool capacity in Europe.