



18 January 2011

INDUSTRY WORKSHOP

“ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND INDUSTRY: CHALLENGES AND EU POLICY NEEDS”

26 JANUARY 2011 (9H30 – 13H30)

AIM OF THE WORKSHOP

Energy efficiency is a matter of great importance for European companies across all sectors. World-class solutions to reduce energy consumption cost-effectively often come from European industry, which itself has already substantially improved its own energy productivity.

The workshop aims at gathering together BUSINESSEUROPE's members with European industry sector associations alongside the supply chain in order to take stock of energy efficiency achievements and outlooks, and to trigger discussion on EU policy needs.

The event is not a BUSINESSEUROPE position-making exercise. Its primary objective is to gather information and expertise from the various industrial actors, at both national and sectoral levels. It should help also to stimulate information-sharing between industrial actors in order to promote coordinated views.

Participants will be discussing first the energy supply side (generation and transmission) and, second, the demand side. Discussions should help to bring clarifications on issues such as:

- Where are the biggest opportunities to make the EU more energy-efficient? How can we ensure a balanced and cost-effective effort-sharing within society? What role can the different industrial sectors play? Are the 'best available technologies' well spread around Europe?
- Can the EU policy framework be optimised? What role should Member States play? How can policymakers best incentivise energy efficiency improvements?

The debate will help to identify issues which would require further work.

POLICY UPDATE

Following the adoption of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan in October 2006, EU leaders threw their weight behind it at their annual Spring Summit in March 2007, stressing “*the need ... to achieve the objective of saving 20% of the EU's energy consumption compared to projections for 2020*”. Recent publications show that further progress is needed to reach the objective.

The European Commission will present a renewed Energy Efficiency Action Plan in early 2011, which will be followed by concrete regulatory proposals before the end of the year.

In December 2010, the European Parliament adopted an own-initiative report on the upcoming renewed Action Plan. EU leaders will discuss energy efficiency as part the European Council dedicated to energy and innovation on 4 February 2011.

BUSINESSEUROPE PERSPECTIVE ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY

BUSINESSEUROPE has for years been promoting the immense potential in Europe and in the world to increase energy efficiency, through behavioural changes or through cost-effective technologies. Energy efficiency is the way forward to best reconcile economic growth, energy security and climate change.

European businesses have impressive track records for developing innovative energy-efficient technologies and solutions. This is what places the European Union among the most energy-efficient regions of the world.

As mentioned in a position paper dated October 2010, the priority should be given to the effective application of existing EU instruments, instead of adding new layers of regulation. A number of concrete EU policy areas should be emphasised to ensure that energy is used more efficiently, such as

- energy-efficient refurbishment of existing buildings and the construction of energy efficient new buildings.
- promotion of Combined and Heat Power (CHP) where economically viable.
- proper implementation of product legislation such as the eco-design directive and the energy labelling directive
- a more ambitious institutional agreement concerning public purchases of energy-efficient products
- an integrated and balanced approach on efficiency in transport, for instance by promoting co-modality

Background BUSINESSEUROPE documents on energy efficiency:

- BUSINESSEUROPE brochure "*Energy efficiency: Reconciling economic growth and climate protection*" (November 2007):
<http://www.businessseurope.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=568&DocID=19775>
- BUSINESSEUROPE position paper "European business recommendations on EU policies for climate and energy" (October 2010):
<http://www.businessseurope.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=568&DocID=27287>

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