



29 August 2011

PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY (COM(2011) 370)

MEETING BETWEEN MEP CLAUDE TURMES AND PHILIPPE DE BUCK, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF BUSINESSEUROPE (31 AUGUST 2011)

BUSINESSEUROPE welcomes the publication of the Commission's proposal for a directive on energy efficiency. This proposal places at the heart of debate a central theme which has unfortunately received too little attention at European level in recent years. Given the energy challenges that the EU will have to meet (e.g. increase energy prices, management of demand peaks, growth dynamic of renewable and grids, probable decommissioning of power generators, etc.), management of energy demand and hence energy efficiency will have to play a major role.

By bringing together supply-side and demand-side measures in a single directive, this legislative proposal rightly seeks to adopt an integrated approach to a European energy efficiency policy. While it is not covered by this directive, the contribution by the transport sector (co-modality, modern infrastructures, facilitating the penetration of more energy-efficient vehicles and of alternative fuels, etc.) will be essential to achieve the overall EU target.

The measures proposed in the directive need to be assessed against four **key criteria**:

- Complementary to effective (voluntary) programmes in Member States.
- Consistency with existing energy-climate, industrial and energy liberalisation policies.
- Allow companies to apply cost-efficient and economically feasible solutions.
- Do not lead to an excessive increase in administrative burden.

BUSINESSEUROPE's comments on the Energy Efficiency Plan 2011 (see Annex) have set out some principles and have given initial views on the core elements of the proposed long-term policy. In a new position paper to be released soon, we will assess the way the Commission is proposing to transform into concrete EU-wide (binding) measures those core elements and, where appropriate, gives recommendations on how it should be improved. The position paper will address:

- **Common EU methodology and the 20% energy efficiency target**
- **Renovation of buildings**
- **Public purchasing of energy efficient products and services**
- **Energy audits for large companies**
- **Energy efficiency obligation schemes**
- **Combined Heat and Power**
- **Set-aside CO₂ emission allowances**

* * *