

# Citizens' summary – EU proposals for cutting energy consumption through greater efficiency

## WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- Current estimates show the EU is **not on track** to achieve its target of **reducing its estimated energy consumption for 2020 by 20%**.
- As a result, new measures on energy efficiency are now being proposed for implementation throughout the economy to bring the EU back on track to achieve its objective by 2020.

## WHAT EXACTLY WOULD CHANGE?

- **Public bodies** would need to buy energy-efficient buildings, products and services, and refurbish 3% of their buildings each year to drastically reduce their energy consumption.
- **Energy utilities** would have to encourage end users to cut their energy consumption through efficiency improvements such as the replacement of old boilers or insulation of their homes.
- **Industry** would be expected to become more aware of energy-saving possibilities, with large companies required to undertake energy audits every 3 years.
- **Consumers** would be better able to manage their energy consumption thanks to better information provided on their meters and bills.
- **Energy transformation** would be monitored for efficiency, with the EU proposing measures to improve performance if necessary, and promoting cogeneration of heat and electricity.
- **National energy regulatory authorities** would have to take energy efficiency into account when deciding how and at what costs energy is distributed to end users.
- **Certification schemes** would be introduced for providers of energy services to ensure a high level of technical competence.

## WHO WOULD BENEFIT AND HOW?

- **Consumers** would benefit from having better information available to control their energy consumption and influence their energy bills.
- The **environment** would benefit from reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Public bodies** could reduce their spending for energy consumption by using more efficient buildings, products and services.
- The **EU economy** would benefit from a more secure energy supply and economic growth through the creation of new jobs, particularly in building renovation.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Once the proposal is adopted by the European Parliament and the Council, EU countries will have to transpose the rules into national law within one year.
- Progress made in achieving EU's 20% energy saving target in 2020 will be reviewed in 2014. If it is insufficient, mandatory national energy efficiency targets will be proposed.