



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 11.12.2012
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Poslanecká sněmovna for its Opinion on the Commission's proposal for a new Energy Efficiency Directive {COM(2011) 370 final} and the accompanying Impact Assessment, and apologizes for the long delay in replying.

The Commission shares the Chamber's view that energy efficiency is an effective and appropriate means of enhancing energy security and the competitiveness of the economy. The EU needs to take stronger efforts to save energy to reduce its dependence on imports of fossil fuels from outside the EU and to lessen the negative impacts of increasing energy prices..

In the current economic conditions, concerns about burdening public finances and consumers with excessive costs are fully understandable. Therefore, the principle of cost-effectiveness underpins the proposal and allows for variations between the Member States. As an example, the annual 3% renovation target for buildings owned by central government bodies is linked to cost-optimal levels defined by the Member States.

Projections on future trends and the impact of individual policy measures always include a certain margin of error, linked – for example – to unforeseen circumstances such as deep economic decline or natural disasters. However, the analysis of EU progress on reaching the primary energy saving target included in the Impact Assessment is based notably on an analysis of the national indicative energy efficiency targets that Member States have set themselves in their National Reform Programmes. This contributes to the credibility and robustness of these projections, which were not fundamentally questioned by any of the involved parties.

The compromise reached between the European Parliament and the Council in June 2012 resulted in a Directive that will significantly contribute to our common goals on secure, sustainable and competitive energy, while leaving greater flexibility for Member States to adapt its provisions to local conditions. In the coming months the Commission will work together with Member States to ensure the correct implementation of this Directive.

*Ms Miroslava NĚMCOVÁ
President of the
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The Commission hopes that these explanations address the concerns expressed by the Poslanecká sněmovna and looks forward to continuing our dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*