

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 14.12.2012  
C(2012) 9179 final*

*Mr Seán BARRETT  
President of the Dáil Éireann*

*Senator Paddy BURKE  
President of the Seanad Éireann*

*Houses of the Oireachtas  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
IRL – DUBLIN 2*

*Dear Presidents,*

*The European Commission would like to thank the Houses of the Oireachtas for the Opinion on the Commission's proposal for a new Energy Efficiency Directive {COM(2011) 370 final}, and apologises for the delay in replying.*

*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 the provisions of the Directive to local conditions, which was one of the key recommendations made by the Houses of the Oireachtas. For example, the provisions on district heating and combined heat and power are now subject not only to a rigorous cost-benefit assessment, but also to additional safeguards.*

*The Commission agrees that it is fundamental to ensure the full complementarity of the agreed text with existing legislation in the field of energy efficiency. During the legislative process, the Commission indeed sought to make these links, where appropriate. As an example, the renovation of buildings owned by central government will have to be based on cost-optimal levels established in line with the provisions of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive<sup>1</sup>. The Commission intends to work closely with the authorities of the Member States in the coming months to assist them in the implementation of the Directive.*

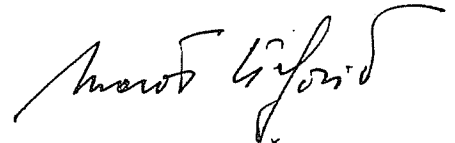
*The agreed text of the Energy Efficiency Directive does not include any global binding target on energy efficiency. The question of the appropriate future policy framework and possible binding targets is open. In line with the provisions of the Directive, the Commission will assess Member State progress in 2014 and propose additional measures, if appropriate. However, at the moment efforts should focus the correct implementation of the Directive agreed in June 2012.*

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 153, 18.06.2010, p. 13

*The Commission hopes that these explanations address the concerns expressed by the Houses of the Oireachtas and looks forward to continuing our dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maroš Šefčovič', with a stylized flourish at the end.

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice President*