



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 22.8.2017  
C(2017) 5868 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera dei Deputati for its Opinion on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency {COM(2016) 761 final}.*

*This proposal was adopted by the Commission in November 2016 as part of the 'Clean Energy for All Europeans' package, which contains important legislative and non-legislative measures to achieve the objectives of the Energy Union and, in particular, the Union's 2030 targets for energy and climate. These measures are designed to put energy efficiency first, achieve global leadership in renewable energies and provide a fair deal for consumers.*

*In proposing these measures, the Commission is delivering on the promise in its 2015 Work Programme to adopt a Strategic Framework for the Energy Union setting out the key actions to be taken in order to ensure energy supply security, reduce dependence on imports from third countries, further integrate national energy markets, improve the participation of consumers in the energy market, enhance energy efficiency, decarbonise the energy mix and promote research and innovation in the energy field.*

*Setting an ambitious, but achievable, target of 30% for energy efficiency in 2030 would demonstrate Europe's readiness to assume a leadership role and give a renewed impetus to meeting the European Union's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and beyond.*

*The Commission welcomes the Camera dei Deputati's broad support for the aims of the proposals, and notes its concerns on some aspects of the proposal, in particular in relation to Article 7 (energy saving obligation) and Article 8 (energy audits). The Commission is pleased to have this opportunity to provide clarifications regarding the energy efficiency proposal and trusts that these will allay the Committee's concerns.*

*Ms Laura BOLDRINI  
President of the Camera dei Deputati  
Piazza Montecitorio  
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*In relation to Article 7, the Commission would like to recall that Member States have a significant flexibility as to the way in which they achieve energy savings, which enables them to take into account national conditions and specificities. Moreover, Article 7 retains the flexibilities that respect the specificity of a national context and takes into account the prior achievements in energy efficiency (e.g. early action). Moreover, the principle of additionality allows the design of national policies (for example, fiscal incentives or regulations to address the existing market barriers) in addition to the minimum requirements set under EU law.*

*The Commission did not consider it appropriate to set up a mechanism based on energy-intensity in the context of Article 7, because such intensity evolves over time, depending on economic trends. This could result in more stringent goals as the economy grows.*

*As regards the Camera dei Deputati's observations on energy audits in Article 8, the Commission considers that the current provisions in Article 8 already provide sufficient flexibility to ensure that cost-effectiveness can be ensured in the national implementation phase. To address Member States' concerns, the Commission has also initiated a process to work with national authorities to prepare an updated guidance document on Article 8.*

*In response to the specific questions raised in the Opinion, the Commission would like to refer the Camera dei Deputati to the attached annex.*

*The points made in this reply are based on the initial proposal presented by the Commission, which are currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council.*

*The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Chamber of Deputies and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Christos Stylianides  
Member of the Commission*

## Annex

*The Commission has carefully considered each of the issues raised by the Camera dei Deputati in its Opinion and is pleased to offer the following clarifications.*

*In relation to Article 7, the Commission would like to recall that the national context is considered when calculating the savings requirements. Article 7 of the proposal also ensures flexibility with regard to how the energy savings would be phased in over the whole obligation period (2021- 2030) as long as the total amount of required energy savings, calculated by Member State, is achieved by the end of the obligation period. Therefore, those Member States that have put in place energy efficiency policies in the current period 2014-2020 will benefit from the lower level of effort needed for the next period 2021-2030.*

*Moreover, in relation to the principle of additionality, Member States may design the policy measures that target the sectors with the greatest energy savings potential and benefit the final customers. The ultimate objective indeed is to increase the energy efficiency performance in Member States. Given the significant flexibility enshrined in Article 7, Member States may adapt at any time the policy measures that correspond better to their specific needs.*

*The Commission takes note of the point made in relation to removing the provision in Article 7 that allows the sales of energy used in transport to be partially or fully excluded and recalls that the exclusion of energy sales in transport is not an obligation as the Member States may exercise it according to the national context and needs. Furthermore, promoting specific technologies under Article 7 shall be regarded as the competence of each Member State as long as the main objective – the achievement of end-use energy savings referred to in Article 7(1) are achieved by the Member State by the end of the obligation period.*

*As regards the Camera dei Deputati's observations on energy audits in Article 8, the Commission would like to underline that the updated guidance document on Article 8, which is being prepared by the Commission services, would include methodologies to improve the cost-effectiveness of the energy audit requirements. This would be done by issuing guidelines for methodologies to be defined and applied by the national authorities dealing with energy audits. Such guidelines could also result in a better alignment of the energy audits requirements across countries as called for by the Camera dei Deputati in its Opinion.*

*The Commission notes the suggestions regarding the enhancement of the technical measures to ensure high-quality energy audits and in that respect appreciates the Italian experience with great interest.*