



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Ion-Marcel CIOLACU
President of the Camera Deputaților
Palatul Parlamentului,
Strada Izvor nr.2-4, sect.5,
RO-050563 Bucuresti*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion supporting the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – EU ‘Save Energy’ {COM(2022) 240 final}, and the support for the long-term relevance of voluntary energy saving choices.

The Commission takes note of the recommendations expressed by the Camera Deputaților, namely the recommendation to increase the use of public and rail transport, to mobilise civil society organisations to promote energy-saving methods, in particular to meet the needs of vulnerable groups, to step up scientific research in technologies that provide immediate energy savings and to develop guidelines for energy saving competences in school curricula.

In this context, the Commission would like to underline that the ‘energy efficiency first’ principle is one of the guiding principles of the EU’s energy policy. It means that energy efficiency solutions should be the first option in policy, planning and investment decisions. In an effort to help Member States operationalise the principle, the Commission published a Recommendation and Guidelines for the implementation of the Energy Efficiency First Principle in decision-making in the energy sector and beyond.¹ While immediate energy savings are crucial, it is important to translate short-term energy savings stemming from voluntary choices into long-term structural changes. There is an urgency to increase energy efficiency in the energy system as well as in end-use energy sectors. The Commission facilitates the exchange of best practices on implemented energy saving measures following

¹ C(2021) 7014 final.

the publication of EU 'Save Energy' among Member States in relevant fora, including the Energy Efficiency Directive Committee and Energy Efficiency in Buildings Committee.

The recent economic, energy and health crises demonstrate that a harmonised approach is needed to empower and protect vulnerable customers and final users and those affected by energy poverty. To ensure the same level of protection and empowerment, the Energy Efficiency Directive recast proposal requires Member States to implement and finance energy efficiency improvement measures as a priority among those people. Networks of experts should be established in all Member States and facilitate their actions in this regard.

Low and medium income households, vulnerable customers, including final users, people facing or risking energy poverty and people living in social housing should benefit from the application of the energy efficiency first principle. Energy efficiency measures should be implemented as a priority to improve the situations of those individuals and households or to alleviate energy poverty. A holistic approach in policy making and in implementing policies and measures requires Member States to ensure that other policies and measures have no adverse effect on these individuals and households.

Coordinated efforts at local, national and EU level and the active participation of citizens are equally necessary to ensure a quick and effective deployment of energy efficiency measures, which are often coupled with energy saving actions to maximise their beneficial impact. In support of these efforts, the joint Commission-International Energy Agency 'Playing my part' campaign provides some examples that individuals and companies can follow to reduce their energy consumption.

As regards the recommendation expressed by the Camera Deputaţilor on eco-design, the Commission would like to recall that its proposal for a Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products² extends the scope of the Ecodesign framework to cover the broadest possible range of products.

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaţilor and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Kadri Simson
Member of the Commission*

² COM(2022) 142 final.