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Deadlock on Energy Efficiency Directive risks harming consumers

One week before a crucial European Parliament vote¹ on a proposal for an Energy Efficiency Directive², The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) is worried about the disregard of vital consumer issues.

BEUC fears that a dispute between Parliament and Member States on energy targets may result in weakening crucial measures aimed at helping consumers curb their energy consumption. To reduce their consumption, consumers need:

- Accurate, frequent and well-structured bills;
- Easily accessible and understandable information on their consumption;
- Personalised advice to help understand their consumption habits and learn how to consume less energy.

Monique Goyens, Director General of BEUC, commented:

“Increasing energy efficiency hinges on consumers’ ability to reduce their consumption. What has been proposed by the Commission contained significant measures to help consumers do exactly that. It would be an efficient use of EU policymakers’ time to prioritise sealing a deal on these issues.”

“For this Directive to earn its name, accurate and understandable consumption information is key. But more information alone will not bring satisfaction across the board. The vast majority of consumers will need practical advice on how to save energy. All Member States should put a system in place to provide this kind of support. ”

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¹ On 28 February, a vote on this Directive proposal is scheduled in the European Parliament’s Industry, Research and Energy committee leading this legislation.

² This wide-ranging proposal contains measures such as renovation targets of public buildings and requirements regarding metering and billing to help Europe meet its 2020 energy efficiency targets.