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Press Release

Consumer and sustainable transport groups join call for ambitious EU energy efficiency legislation

Brussels, 21 October 2015 – BEUC, The European Consumer Organisation, and the sustainable transport group, Transport & Environment (T&E), have joined the Coalition for Energy Savings in its call for ambitious and credible energy efficiency legislation.

This broadening of the Coalition's membership comes at a time when Member States and the European Commission are discussing a new governance system for the Energy Union – with some Member States pushing hard to weaken requirements to save energy.

"We are joining forces with industry, consumers and other environmental NGOs to turn the energy efficiency first principle into reality. This principle will help the EU and its Member States achieve their 2030 climate target, notably through setting stricter efficiency standards for cars and vans in 2025 and first-time limits for trucks at EU level", said Jos Dings, Director of Transport & Environment.

"The Energy Union should work to the benefit of consumers while delivering a sustainable energy system. Without ambitious energy savings policies and transparent governance mechanisms anchored in legislation, this cannot happen, which is why consumers are teaming up with the Coalition for Energy Savings", said Monique Goyens, Director General of BEUC, The European Consumer Organisation.

"Energy efficiency stakeholders are strengthening their voice and calling for bold legislative action to move to an energy system which puts energy efficiency first. Too much flexibility in Europe's new Energy Union governance system would not instill the needed confidence and trust to unlock the multiple benefits of energy efficiency", said Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General of the Coalition for Energy Savings.

As a multi-stakeholder Coalition, uniting 29 European business, civil society, consumer, professional, trade union and local government organisations, the Coalition for Energy Savings calls on the European Commission to make legislative proposals in 2016 to close the gap to realise the EU's full cost-effective potential for energy savings. Closing that gap requires setting a transparent, accountable and legitimate governance system enshrined in legislation.

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The Coalition for Energy Savings brings together business, professionals, local authorities, trade unions, consumer and civil society associations. The Coalition's purpose is to make the case for a European energy policy that places a much greater, more meaningful emphasis on energy efficiency and savings. Coalition members represent more than 400 associations, 150 companies, 15 million supporters, more than 2 million employees, 1,000 cities and towns in 30 countries in Europe. energycoalition.eu

Notes for editors

- BEUC, The European Consumer Organisation, brings the voice of Europe's consumers to the European Union legislative institutions of Commission, Parliament and Council. BEUC has a membership of 41 independent national consumer organisations from 31 European countries. www.beuc.eu
- Transport & Environment (T&E) is Europe's leading NGO campaigning for cleaner transport. T&E thinks transport policy should minimise harmful impacts on the environment and health, maximise efficiency of resources, including energy and land, and guarantee safety and sufficient access for all. Established in 1990, T&E represents around 50 organisations across Europe. www.transportenvironment.org