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European Parliament adopts unambitious Energy Efficiency Directive

Today the European Parliament passed the EU Energy Efficiency Directive¹ which sets energy savings targets for providers. Energy companies will be required to make yearly energy savings amounting to 1.5% of their annual sales.

Monique Goyens, Director General of The European Consumer Organisation, commented:

"Consumers risk losing out twice. It is crystal clear that energy companies will charge customers for the cost of this scheme. This legislation gives the energy sector a free hand to make the required savings by the means most convenient to them. To provide any consumer benefit, savings should be made in a transparent and cost-effective way."

"This Directive marks another misguided milestone on the hasty roll-out of smart meters in Europe. EU lawmakers missed a perfect opportunity to ensure smart meters are a means for consumers to reduce their energy consumption. Our research shows that smart meters will only benefit some people and will lead to much lower savings than those claimed by industry."²

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Note to editors:

¹ The Directive will be formally adopted by vote of Member States in the Council of the EU.

² The BEUC commissioned study from 22/12/2011 predicts a best-case scenario of 2-4% energy reductions per year. Read the full study here: <http://bit.ly/JKn9R7>