

## The Consumer Voice in Europe

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07 June 2023

### **Subject: Ecodesign measures for heating appliances**

Dear President Von der Leyen,

I am writing to you to express our support for the Ecodesign measures the Commission is currently proposing for heating appliances and the phasing-out of stand-alone fossil fuel-fired boilers by 2029.

These measures will not only benefit consumers financially in the long term, they will reduce our reliance on third countries for our energy needs, and help the EU meet its climate goals, which are the goals of the REPowerEU strategy.

The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) has conducted studies to look into the benefits of heat pumps for consumers. These have shown that switching to electric heat pumps from fossil fuel-fired boilers will generally be the cheapest green heating option<sup>1</sup>. According to our latest research on the financial benefits of Ecodesign for consumers, European households could save close to €400 every year by switching from a condensing gas boiler to a top-class heat pump.<sup>2</sup>

We acknowledge that moving away from fossil fuels for heating in the EU will not be easy. The high upfront costs associated with switching to heat pumps should not be underestimated, and consumers will require financial and administrative support from EU Member States. There may well need to be some targeted exemptions in cases where it is physically not possible to move away from a stand-alone boiler for heating.

However, critics of the Ecodesign measures are quick to present them as a ban on gas heating. These are wide of the mark. Ecodesign measures are only about placing new heating appliances on the market, which means that gas boilers will still be in operation in the EU for long after 2029. Hybrid heating systems will also be allowed after 2029, where a gas boiler and a heat pump together meet the heating needs of a home.

Delaying these measures now will only delay the two big benefits of these measures: saving consumers money on their energy bills in the long run, and decarbonising heating in the EU. Ecodesign measures for heating appliances make sense for our wallets and the planet. We should not delay.

For your information, we have also sent this letter to Executive Vice-President Timmermans.

Yours sincerely,

Monique Goyens  
Director General

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<sup>1</sup> BEUC, '[Goodbye gas: heat pumps will be the cheapest green heating option for consumers](#)' (Nov 2021).

<sup>2</sup> BEUC, '[Energy-efficient appliances: the silent money makers in consumers' homes](#)' (May 2023)