PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 5th February 2014

EuroACE congratulates European Parliament for its economic rationale in calling for a Binding 40% Energy Efficiency Target and Sectoral Target for Buildings

In its Plenary vote today on the 2030 Report (Delvaux/Szymanski), the European Parliament put its full weight behind the ITRE-ENVI Report calling for a binding 40% Energy Efficiency Target. EuroACE calls on the Commission and Member States to place Energy Efficiency and Buildings at the heart of the 2030 Climate and Energy Debate.

“The European Parliament has shown a clear vision and understanding of the current economic dynamics in the EU – unlocking the available cost-effective energy savings potential in sectors like buildings through a binding Energy Efficiency Target and a sectoral target for buildings is a no-brainer”, affirmed Adrian Joyce, Secretary General of EuroACE, in his reactions from Strasbourg.

This vote is a clear signal demonstrating the political support for a new commitment on energy efficiency. It provides additional encouragement to the Commission to step up its ambition in defining a clear path for energy efficiency towards 2030, in the context of next summer’s review of the EU’s energy efficiency efforts.

EuroACE calls on the European Commission to take stock of the economic evidence and of the European Parliament’s clear stance, and stands ready to support the Commission as it assesses the need for bold legislation to drive the demand for further Energy Efficiency in this Summer’s efficiency review, with specific requirements for buildings as a major contributor to achieving a binding Energy Efficiency target, as stated in the EP’s adopted Report.

Indeed, recurrent evidence from independent research institutes but also from the Commission’s internal economic team have repeatedly preached about the cost-effective benefits of Energy Efficiency and about the huge available energy savings potentials in buildings.

In its 2030 Climate and Energy Package released on 22nd January, the European Commission’s Impact Assessment indicated the strong economic rationale behind setting ambitious legislation for Energy Efficiency: “Higher efforts geared towards energy efficiency and renewable energy beyond what is needed to achieve a GHG target would result in higher benefits relating to e.g., improvements in fuel efficiency, security of supply, reduction of the negative trade balance for fossil fuels, environmental impacts and health.”

Evidence-based research from the recent Fraunhofer Report had already demonstrated that without a binding Energy Efficiency Target, the EU will not achieve energy savings beyond the business as usual scenario.

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1 European Commission, Impact Assessment, January 2014, p132
About EuroACE:
EuroACE represents Europe’s leading companies involved with the manufacture, distribution and installation of energy saving goods and services for buildings. EuroACE members have a total turnover of around €140 billion per year in efficiency-related business and they employ approximately 172,000 people in these activities in Europe. The mission of EuroACE is to work together with the EU institutions to help Europe move towards a more efficient use of energy in buildings, thereby contributing to Europe’s commitments on climate change, energy security and economic growth.
Website: www.euroace.org

About the Renovate Europe Campaign:
Launched in 2011, the Renovate Europe Campaign is an initiative of EuroACE. Its headline ambition is to reduce the energy demand of the EU building stock by 80% by 2050, as compared to 2005 levels.
Website: www.renovate-europe.eu

EuroACE Members (February 2014) are: