

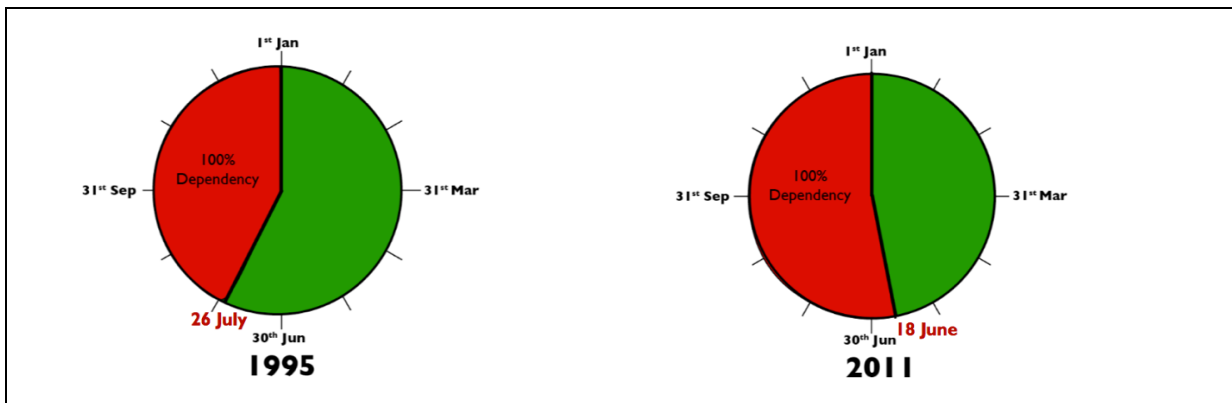
EuroACE urges EU leaders to act decisively on energy efficiency, especially in buildings, in order to avoid an even earlier EU Energy Dependence Day

On which day of the year does the EU become entirely dependent on foreign imports?

With each year that passes, the EU imports more and more of its primary energy. The EU imported just over 43% of its primary energy in 1995¹. By 2011 the figure had risen to nearly 54% - in large part due to increased energy use in buildings. This means that the **EU became dependent on foreign imports on the 26th July in 1995**. With increasing energy demand, the **EU became dependent on foreign imports as early as the 18th June in 2011**, an extra 38 days of energy dependence!

European Energy Dependence Day is set to fall even earlier in the year over the next decade, unless the EU **ambitiously addresses the most energy-consuming sectors in the EU's economy, such as buildings**, as a means of reducing energy demand, with a **binding 40% energy efficiency target for 2030, supported by a binding sectoral target for buildings**.

This is the message that **Adrian Joyce, Secretary General of EuroACE**, will deliver when addressing the Energy Ministers at the **Informal Ministerial on Friday 16th May in Athens**.



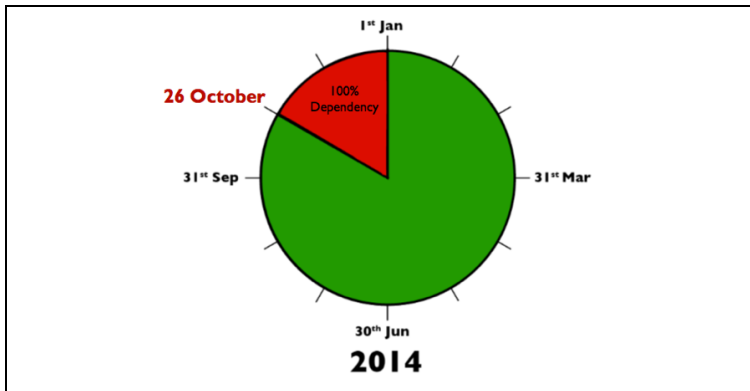
Lack of solid energy efficiency policy led to increase of the EU energy dependency

*“The EU is worryingly reliant on external sources of energy, leaving it **vulnerable to energy shocks, high costs and, as we have recently seen, political turmoil**”, explains Adrian Joyce. “The cost of these energy imports is further aggravating the economic problems that the EU faces as the trade balances of Member States are significantly affected by energy purchases.”*

Indeed, this **dependence comes at a cost** and Eurostat placed that cost, in 2012, at €421bn net, which translates into a daily expenditure of over €1.1bn on energy imports. It means that for every day we can extend our energy independence by reducing our energy demand, a **net financial saving of €1.15bn accrues** to the Member States of the EU, money that can be used to create economic activity and jobs.

¹ [Energy Economic Developments in Europe](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/european_economy/2014/pdf/ee1_en.pdf) (European Commission, 22 January 2011) : http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/european_economy/2014/pdf/ee1_en.pdf

By setting a **40% binding energy efficiency target for 2030** and equipping the building sector with a dedicated objective, thereby unlocking the huge untapped energy efficiency potential in the EU the EU would reduce its energy imports by up to 80%. *Imagine* that we were able to fully capture that level of savings this year. European Energy Dependence Day would then fall on the **26th October 2014** – a full 4 months and 8 days later than it did in 2011.



Imagine:

European Energy Dependence Day if full 40% savings captured this year

EuroACE's address at the Informal Ministerial is timely as the Ministers come together to discuss the **Climate and Energy Framework for 2030, against a backdrop of multiple political and economic crises, with energy dependence top of the EU political agenda.**

Buildings represent 40% of all energy consumed in the EU, and 36% of CO₂ emissions. With technologies currently available on the market, the energy demand of buildings could be reduced by 80%.

The buildings-related EU Directives have provided little stimulus to the renovation market so far, with a poor implementation of the recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, and weak take-up by Member States to produce ambitious National Renovation Roadmaps to 2050, as mandated by Article 4 of the Energy Efficiency Directive.

*“Setting a 40% binding Energy Efficiency target, with a sectoral target for buildings, is essential in order to provide the **needed political focus and market certainty** which will unlock the huge energy efficiency potential in the EU”, explained Susanne Dyrboel, President of EuroACE. “It is time to **stop wasting energy in the EU, especially in buildings.** There is now ample justification for Member States to call on the European Commission to **fully revise its proposal for 2030, by starting with Energy Efficiency first**”.*

Download EuroACE Speech and Presentation at the Informal Ministerial: www.euroace.org

Download EuroACE Policy Brief delivered at the Informal Ministerial: www.euroace.org

END

EuroACE

THE EUROPEAN ALLIANCE OF COMPANIES
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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 employ over 300 000 people and have over 770 production facilities and office locations in the EU. 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 (May 2014) are:

