

Energy policy briefing. Cooperatives call on the EU Council to be more ambitious on energy targets. October 2014

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From 23rd to 25th October the European Council will take place in Brussels, with Heads of State deciding on the EU's 2030 energy and climate objectives. In particular, they will have to agree on concrete targets and strategies with regard to CO2 emission reductions, the share of renewable energy and more concrete energy efficiency aims.

In order to achieve a secure and sustainable energy framework, the Council and the Commission will need to focus much more on the role of the EU's citizens as a decisive engine for decreasing energy dependency.

Cooperatives Europe as the representative organisations of cooperative enterprises in Europe promotes a people-centred business approach addressing the socio-economic needs of the involved citizens. There are 160.000 cooperative enterprises in Europe, which are owned by 123 million members and which provide direct employment to 5,4 million European citizens.

Cooperatives Europe is convinced that the EU's energy strategy will only be successful if its citizens' needs are at the heart of the decisions.

We therefore call on the EU Head of States to:

- Set more ambitious targets for the 2030 framework beyond the current proposals with three binding targets beyond 30% at EU level for energy efficiency, renewable energy share and greenhouse gas emission reductions. Furthermore these new EU level targets need to be broken down into 28 individual national level targets while ensuring an equal burden sharing approach.
- Focus on reducing oil & gas imports by stimulating greater energy efficiencies and by increasing the share of renewable energies; we are convinced that the European Energy Security Strategy needs to focus on developing the EU internal market via for example fostering more district heating and decentralised renewable energy production, in order to decrease the EU's external energy dependency.
- Put citizens at the heart of the EU's energy policies: citizens can play a crucial role not only as consumers, but also as collective energy producers and vectors of increased energy efficiency. For those reasons the 2030 framework and the Energy Security Strategy should enhance citizen-based energy initiatives.

Brussels, 20th October 2014