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EUROPE CAN GAIN MUCH MORE THAN 20% WITH ENERGY EFFICIENCY.

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Yesterday the European Commission launched a new action plan for energy efficiency with proposals to realise 20% energy efficiency until 2020. INFORSE-Europe strongly supports these that can improve the environment, reduce dependence on fossil and nuclear energy sources, and increase employment throughout Europe.

There is no need to limit the efficiency increases to 20%, a level that was identified as cost effective in 2003-2004, before the energy price energy price hikes of the recent years. With current energy prices the cost-effective energy efficiency levels are well above 20% for most energy consuming sectors. In the new energy strategy itself full end-use energy efficiency potentials are identified to be between 25% and 30% for different sectors for 2020. Looking further into the future, energy efficiency increases can be above 50% compared with current levels as shown in INFORSE-Europe's energy vision2050 for the 25 EU countries (<http://www.inforse.org/europe/Vision2050.htm>).

To realise the large, cost-effective energy efficiency potentials, INFORSE-Europe welcomes the ten proposal of the action plan; but calls for more actions. including:

- Increased resources for work on energy-efficiency labelling and standards lack With the current level of resources EU is not able to follow the technical development with sufficient introduction of new standards and labels. If the proposed action on standards and labels is going to be successful, EU must mobilise resources to follow the technical development of new energy consuming equipment and set proactive standards and labels.
- In addition to the proposed revision of taxation is a need to develop energy taxation that set a clear signal of future energy prices without harming consumers at times of energy price hikes. EU should support coordination of "front-runner" countries in this field of "smart" taxes.
- Clear consumer information and targeted campaigns are absolute requirements for successful promotion of energy efficient equipment among consumers. To finance this all EU countries should set a levy of 1% or more of the energy price, dedicated to consumer information and campaigns on energy efficiency. The levy should be managed by an independent entity such as a public trust fund and should be given to independent information and advice activities.
- Transport actions must combine the proposed and necessary fuel-efficiency standard with promotion of public transport, promotion of less transport intensive cities and production, and promotion of efficient, electrically-driven transport including trams, trolleys and trains.

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