



EUROPEAN FEDERATION  
OF INTELLIGENT ENERGY EFFICIENCY SERVICES

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### Press release

## **EU Clean Energy Package: "Energy efficiency first" and the conclusions of the EU Strategy on Heating and Cooling should be the guiding principles for the final texts**

EFIEES welcomes the European Commission's "[Clean Energy for All Europeans](#)" package including notably the revisions of the Directives on Energy Efficiency, Energy Performance of Buildings, Renewable Energy Sources and a new Electricity Market Design.

On the occasion of the publication of the "Clean Energy for All Europeans" package, Bernard Thomas, EFIEES' President reminds: "The Commission's proposals aim at building a true EU Energy Union, which is a positive development. EFIEES strongly supports an Energy Union based on "**Energy efficiency first**" and the conclusions of the EU Strategy on Heating and Cooling, published earlier this year. The latter promote an integrated approach to the energy system and **overall energy-efficiency solutions**, highlighting the role of District Heating and Cooling as the main driver for renewable heating & cooling. However, some provisions of the new Clean Energy for All Europeans package raise concerns from our side".

### **"Energy Efficiency First" as a prerequisite for transition towards renewables**

In order to deliver "Clean Energy for All", the different proposals need to be improved, so that action for renewable energy sources are **not substituting energy efficiency** measures. "Energy efficiency first" and the recognition of energy efficiency as the first fuel will make energy transition more affordable.

### **An integrated system approach and overall energy-efficiency services**

Energy efficiency, as well as transition to renewable energy sources, have **to be considered at the district or "territory" level**, rather than at the level of the building only. Right incentives for the development of **overall energy-efficiency services**, for districts as well as for buildings, should be added to **avoid fragmentary solutions**.

### **Dynamic promotion of efficient District Heating and Cooling (DHC)**

The new proposals should reflect the conclusions of the EU Strategy on Heating and Cooling and **promote DHC** networks in a dynamic way, by encouraging their improvement when needed, rather than by fragilising their economic model if priority is given to "individual renewable solutions". DHC represent already today the **most important driver** for the growth of the use of **renewable energy sources**.

EFIEES represents private companies ensuring an overall management of energy demand to end-user (Energy Efficiency Service Companies, EESCs). These companies provide operational maintenance and management of equipment of their industrial, tertiary and residential customers (collective or individual), public and private, particularly sports facilities, schools, and hospitals as well as District Heating Networks.