



EFIEES welcomes the new EU Green Deal and is ready to engage with the new Commission

Brussels, 13th December 2019

EFIEES, the European Federation of Intelligent Energy Efficiency Services, is the voice of private energy service companies (ESCOs) and their national associations in 12 EU Member States. Our members represent over 130.000 professionals engaged in the design and implementation of energy-efficiency measures in tertiary buildings, industrial facilities and the residential sector, as well as in the efficient operation of district heating & cooling networks.

In order to deliver on its Paris Agreement commitments, the EU has recently updated its energy and climate policy framework. However, as stated in our Manifesto for the present legislature, the challenge is still there and much is left to be done, particularly to ensure that the commitments taken under the Clean Energy Package are effectively met and make sure we are on track with our 2030 objectives.

Hence, we welcome the EU Green Deal focus on the need to primarily enforce the existing legislation and the engagement of the Commission to work closely with Member States in this respect, also within the framework of the NECPs.

Besides, the Green Deal considerably raises the bar of ambition to align the EU with a 2050 climate neutrality target and thus requires a number of new policy measures and actions to be put in place.

In welcoming many of the initiatives announced in the Green Deal Communication - especially the focus on **smart sector integration** and **energy efficiency improvements** to be realised via **energy efficiency services and Energy Performance Contracting (EPC)** - we strongly remind to adopt the following **4 guiding principles** in the concrete elaboration of future key policies and actions:

- 1. Put Energy Efficiency First**, by ensuring the prioritisation of cost-effective energy efficiency measures to make both energy demand and supply more efficient, in line with the Governance Regulation;
- 2. Promote Energy Efficiency Services**, by addressing not only the financial dimension, but especially the existing barriers which currently hamper the effective uptake of energy efficiency services. New policy tools are needed, with mechanisms that acknowledge the positive role EPCs and other ESCO contracts in buildings, districts and energy communities;
- 3. Decarbonise Heating and Cooling**, as it will not be possible to completely electrify the sector in the short-medium term, solutions to meet the current heating (and cooling) needs in an efficient and increasingly decarbonised way, should be further supported and duly considered for their key role in the transition;
- 4. Adopt a district approach to decarbonisation**, which takes fully into account both local conditions and nearby availability of resources (renewable energy and recovery of waste heat potential) when promoting solutions for the transition and sector integration.

In light of the above, we are eager to engage with the EU legislator in exchanging on the concrete measures that will shape this new sustainable growth strategy and be a committed partner in its implementation.