



Brussels, 23 May 2022

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **REPowerEU enhances, rightfully, energy savings beyond the Fit for 55 Package, but to reach its objectives, we need to focus more on efficient and renewable thermal solutions**

The European Commission presented the 18th of May the REpowerEU plan in response to the current energy situation in Europe. Due to Russia's attack on Ukraine, the climate crisis and this winter's high energy prices, Europe must urgently secure energy independence and scale up energy savings and penetration of renewable energy.

REPowerEU includes a proposal amending critical items in the Fit for 55 Package, further raising the 2030 energy efficiency and renewable energy targets and strengthening requirements for new and existing buildings.

EFIEES welcomes the European Commission's push for **higher ambitions and recognition of vital instruments for reducing buildings' energy consumption and fossil fuel dependencies**. Guaranteed energy performance models such as energy performance contracts and connection to efficient district heating and cooling systems are essential tools to serve the unprecedented ambitions of REPowerEU.

To meet the objectives, we want to highlight three points and suggest further actions to fulfil the REPowerEU potential:

- **Scaling up the use of energy services and energy management solutions, such as energy performance contracts that can guarantee energy and CO2 performance over time.** These solutions will play an increasingly important role in the transition by ensuring that renovation works deliver and maintain the energy savings expected. They also contribute to stimulating and accompanying behavioural changes with key measures for controlling and reducing energy demand. EFIEES calls for reinforcing these solutions' role in the current legislative process, including the new proposals in REPowerEU.
- **Facilitating thermal solutions, particularly at a district level, including giving a broader role to efficient district heating and cooling.** The latter enables efficient mobilisation of local and renewable energy sources such as sustainable biomass and heat pump solutions. Therefore, efficient district heating and cooling should be the first choice when feasible as the efficient alternative to individual solutions.
- **Ensuring that the regulatory and fiscal conditions support the uptake of waste heat and sustainable biomass.** Besides the contribution to the objective of RepowerEU, the use of these decarbonised energy sources will support competitiveness and employment at the local level.

“REPowerEU is raising the energy transition at a new level. This ambition calls, more than ever, for solutions that will guarantee quick and tangible results. Energy efficiency services have a unique role as their solutions, like energy performance contracts, combine energy and decarbonisation measures, active energy management, users' awareness and demand management actions with a guaranteed performance”, says Pascal Guillaume, EFIEES' President.

**EFIEES represents private energy service companies (ESCOs) and their national associations in 10 EU Member States. Our members represent over 130.000 professionals committed to designing and implementing energy efficiency measures in public and private buildings, industrial facilities, and efficient operation of district heating & cooling networks.**