

EFIEES' views on the Commission's Net-Zero Industry Act proposal

EFIEES, the European Federation of Intelligent Energy Efficiency Services, is the voice of private energy service companies (ESCOs) and their national associations across Europe. Our members represent over 100.000 professionals committed to the design and implementation of energy efficiency measures in public and private buildings, industrial facilities, as well as to the efficient operation of district heating & cooling networks.

Following the launch of the European Green Deal, EFIEES has been closely tracking the development of the Fit for 55 package, with a special interest in the deployment of energy management solutions. The Commission's Net-Zero Industry Act represents the missing link of the Green Deal Industrial Plan, to cover the manufacturing of technologies and equipment that are needed for the EU climate objectives.

We welcome the European Commission's initiative to strengthen the manufacturing capacity of the EU, in a context of intense global competition and we believe that the recognition of all the regulatory components that contribute to achieving the Green Deal targets is vital.

For EFIEES, it is a good opportunity to highlight several essential factors, alongside the support of key technologies, to make EU climate and energy policies a success, also for the EU industry.

We firmly believe that the EU's ambition to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 requires all measures to possibly bring their contribution **along the whole energy chain. This can be achieved** by prioritising **energy efficiency as a crucial enabler for decarbonisation - the first one, indeed** - and by promoting a **broad range** of Net-Zero technologies, reflecting the wide panel of decarbonisation solutions to be chosen, depending upon their **merit order, given the local situation**.

As advocated by EFIEES for long years, we recall that **thermal energy remains crucial** in the EU decarbonisation of buildings and industry. To this regard, EFIEES positively reacts to the EC Commission's proposal, as it includes energy efficiency technologies and encompasses products, components, machinery to be used both for electrification based solutions and for thermal energy ones. Among others, heat storage, renewable fuels of non-biological origin, sustainable alternative fuels, are notably acknowledged.