

Stakeholder Joint Statement on the European Commission Communication on 2040 Climate Target

Heating and cooling decarbonisation must be a priority to achieve a 90% GHG emissions reduction by 2040

Following the publication of the Communication on a 2040 Climate target and associated impact assessment, we stand fully committed to delivering the proposed target of 90% reduction of GHG emissions by 2040.

We write to emphasise the **need to prioritize heating and cooling decarbonisation, phasing out fossil fuels, in full coordination with the roll-out of the energy efficiency first principle, in the upcoming post-2030 framework.**

The 2040 Communication rightly identifies the significant CO₂ abatement potential of the building and industrial sectors, which represent respectively 42% and 25,6% of the EU final energy consumption and remain heavily dependent on fossil-fuel use. Unfortunately, it fails to address the much-needed decarbonisation of heating and cooling, representing 80% of buildings' energy consumption and 60% of industries' total energy needs.

The environmentally sustainable decarbonisation of heating and cooling is not just a climate imperative. It is a no-regret option to regain energy sovereignty, combat energy poverty, deliver an Industrial Green Deal and support a more energy-efficient, modern, and circular economy.

In the EU, the potential of sustainable renewable and recovered heat sources alone is significant and remains largely untapped. It is estimated at more than 2,000 TWh/year, exceeding the total projected heat demand by 2050.

We need **a robust post-2030 framework to accelerate the decarbonisation and reduction of heating and cooling demands.** Targeted actions are needed to finance energy efficiency, sustainable renewable and recovered heat projects in the residential, tertiary, and industrial sectors, scale up efficient heating and cooling solutions and renewable energy communities. We must develop integrated strategies for building renovations and heating and cooling decarbonisation. We must facilitate technology adoption not only for vulnerable consumers but for all citizens that have been severely impacted by inflation and the economic crisis.

By speeding up the renovation of buildings and the replacement of fossil-fuel heating sources, the European Union will be putting flesh on the bones of the best possible industrial strategy: the one that provides a scalable market for all clean heat solutions, which are a flagship of European industry.

We thank you for your consideration and would be delighted to have the opportunity to present our thoughts and proposals at the occasion of a meeting.

Sincerely,

Stakeholder Joint Statement on the European Commission Communication on 2040 Climate Target

Signatories:

Bioenergy Europe

CEE Bankwatch

COGEN Europe

ECOS - Environmental Coalition on Standards

Energy Cities

Energy Performance of Buildings Center

Euroheat & Power

European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EuroACE)

European Biogas Association

European Environmental Bureau

European Federation of Citizen Energy Cooperatives (REScoop.eu)

European Federation of Intelligent Energy Efficiency Services (EFIEES)

European Geothermal Council (EGEC)

European Heat Pump Association (EHPA)

European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE)

European Solar Thermal Electricity Association (ESTELA)

Solar Heat Europe

Solar Impulse Foundation

