



**Member States' Permanent
Representatives to the European Union**

22 May 2012

Dear Ambassador,

Under the Danish Presidency, the Council's work has progressed on many provisions of the energy efficiency directive. European industry now hopes that negotiations with the European Parliament will result in a timely agreement on a legal framework which will provide the predictability necessary for investments.

On 23 May, you will examine new Presidency suggestions for Council views on amendments adopted by the ITRE Committee. BUSINESSEUROPE calls on you:

- ***To support new Presidency suggestions (16 May) on the renovation of buildings, in particular on article 3a***

The directive has the potential to act as a catalyst to strengthen the market for energy efficient products and services. In particular, it must encourage an ambitious policy framework for medium- and long- term renovation of private and public buildings where significant untapped potential exists.

- ***To support previous Presidency suggestions (4 May), in particular on articles 6 and 10***

A well-designed framework for energy efficiency can be a major lever for sustainable growth by boosting jobs in new economic areas and reducing CO₂ emissions while enhancing the competitiveness of the EU's industrial base. The text proposed by the Presidency on 4 May strikes a better balance for reaching this objective as it ensures that the directive:

- allows Member States sufficient room to develop tailored approaches that best meet individual circumstances;
- ensures that companies have the possibility to choose the technologies in which they wish to invest;
- avoids adverse interaction with other climate and energy policies, including the EU Emission Trading Scheme Directive;
- results in innovative improvements in energy efficiency rather than imposing a blunt cap on consumption that would place downward pressure on growth.

I trust that you will give your best attention to these views and remain at your disposal should you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

Philippe de Buck