

Martin Lidegaard  
Minister for Climate, Energy and Buildings  
Stormgade 2-6  
DK-1470 Copenhagen K

3 May 2012

## RE: Energy Efficiency Directive

Dear Minister Lidegaard,

Thank you for the constructive conversations we have had so far during your Presidency.

At this stage, however, we feel the need to convey our disappointment about the way the Presidency is dealing with discussions on the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) - an issue at the heart of your Presidency programme.

Although the Presidency clearly cannot be held responsible for the regrettable positions of many Member States, we believe there is a qualified majority for a Directive that is stronger than the compromise proposal that the Presidency is defending. The Commission's recent assessment that the Council position of 4 April would deliver only 38% of the energy savings achieved by the original Commission proposal, and will lead the EU to miss its 20% savings target for 2020, says enough. This level of ambition is not acceptable.

In this regard, we were very surprised to see that the four-column document of 24 April represented no advance in the ambition of the Council's position. This seems to be at odds with the statements by many Energy Ministers at the Horsens meeting on 19 April, which included explicit calls from key countries for the Council's ambition on the EED to be increased. Reported Danish comments that the EED can only be expected to deliver 15% energy savings by 2020 would also, if true, be a highly defeatist and unhelpful signal, particularly at this stage of negotiations.

We appreciate that discussions within the Council have been challenging. Yet now that trilogue discussions have begun, the Presidency's responsibility has shifted: the aim is to find an agreement which is acceptable to *a qualified majority of Member States, and to the much more ambitious European Parliament*. This represents a mandate to work with the most positive elements that individual Member States put forward.

A successful Presidency must not only bring Member States together; it also needs to take the lead to ensure the European Union achieves the targets it has set for itself. We are therefore expecting your Presidency to **push Member States beyond the current Council position - which is a compilation of the 'lowest common denominator' on every element of the draft Directive**. For us a "deal at any cost" is not the objective: if the ambition is too low, a premature agreement will not be welcome, and we would prefer to see other Presidencies try to make a better deal.

The organisations we represent consider this Directive to be of utmost importance: it will be one of the key benchmarks by which we assess your Presidency.

Finally, and as stated before, we stand ready to assist you in any way we can in the furtherance of these important negotiations, and would strongly welcome a strategic discussion on how we can cooperate to ensure considerably greater ambition.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Riss', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jorgo Riss,  
Director, Greenpeace European Unit  
On behalf of the Green 10 EU Directors

CC:

Ambassador Jonas Bering Liisberg, Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU  
Peter Bach, Chief Adviser on Energy Efficiency at the Danish Energy Agency  
Birgitte Bay, Energy Attaché at the Danish Permanent Representation to the EU  
Laura Hviid Arildsbo, Energy Attaché at the Danish Permanent Representation to the EU  
Nina Siegenfeldt, Personal Secretary to the Minister for Climate, Energy and Buildings  
Sofus Rex, Personal Assistant to the Minister for Climate, Energy and Buildings

Green 10 EU Directors:

Angelo Caserta, Regional Director of the European Division – BirdLife International  
Wendel Trio, Director – Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe  
Anelia Stefanova, Director – CEE Bankwatch Network  
Jeremy Wates, Secretary-General – European Environmental Bureau  
Magda Stoczkiewicz, Director - Friends of the Earth Europe  
Jorgo Riss, Director – Greenpeace European Unit  
Genon K. Jensen, Executive Director – Health & Environment Alliance  
Seda Orhan Defranceschi, Head of EU Policy Office - International Friends of Nature  
Jos Dings, Director – The European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E)  
Tony Long, Director – WWF European Policy Office