

José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission

21.10.2011

Brussels,
BARROSO (2011) 1000811
BARROSO (2011) 1124212

Dear Members of Parliament,

Thank you for your letter of 14 September, in which you express your support for an ambitious, expanded and upgraded successor programme to the intelligent energy Europe programme (IEE).

The Commission shares your positive assessment of the contribution the IEE Programme has made over the past years, by accompanying the implementation of EU energy efficiency legislation, supporting innovative projects, building capacity and skills, developing new markets and creating jobs. Stakeholders and in particular, local and regional associations have consistently given the Commission positive feedback on the functioning of the programme. They supported it as a successful tool to activate civil society and foster commitment, making possible projects that otherwise would not have been feasible. As you mention, activities such as the Covenant of Mayors stand witness to the success of IEE in steering joint action for energy efficiency and sustainability. I appreciate that in light of this track record, you are ready to support continued and expanded Union action along similar lines in the next multiannual financial framework (MFF).

Promoting energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy is a top priority for the Commission, in line with its wider commitment to encouraging the transition towards a resource-efficient, low carbon economy. For this reason, in its communication on "A Budget for Europe 2020", outlining the proposals for the EU MFF 2014-2020, the Commission sets out its intention to increase the proportion of the Union budget to at least 20%, which contributes to Europe's transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society.

Ms Maria DA GRAÇA CARVALHO, MEP

Mr Claude TURMES, MEP

Ms Fiona HALL, MEP

Ms Anni PODIMATA, MEP

Mr Bendt BENDTSEN, MEP

Mr Graham WATSON, MEP

Mr Paul RÜBIG, MEP

Mr Jo LEINEN, MEP

Mr Krisjānis KARINS, MEP

Ms Britta THOMSEN, MEP

European Parliament

Rue Wiertz

1047 BRUSSELS

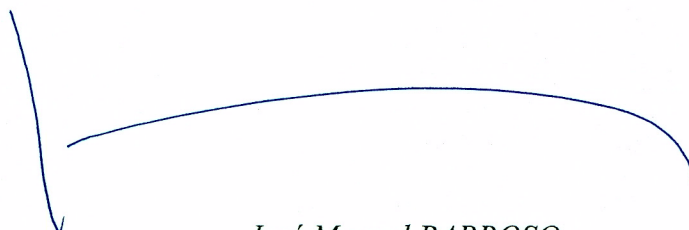
Achieving this objective requires re-thinking the way we factor energy efficiency and sustainability into the expenditure funded from the EU budget, and devising solutions that maximise the contribution of the EU budget to achieving the 2020 targets. This will be possible if we ensure that climate mitigation and adaptation actions and resource efficiency priorities are mainstreamed into all the future funding programmes of the Union.

In this perspective, the Commission has proposed to integrate the objectives of energy efficiency promotion into horizontal programmes that can act as effective tools to promote innovative projects, foster wider and faster implementation of EU legislation and engage civil society, business and local authorities. In this framework, the structural funds will have an important role to play in ensuring the efforts needed to achieve the objective of 20% energy efficiency by 2020. Funding related to energy efficiency and sustainable energy development activities similar to those undertaken within the Intelligent Energy Europe programme, will also feature in the Commission's proposal for Horizon 2020 – the future Framework Programme (2014-20) for Research and Innovation, e.g., through the support for market uptake activities, as well as in the new programmes for competitiveness and SMEs. We are confident that the overall support to promoting renewable energy and efficient energy production and consumption will be strengthened compared to the past, in this way.

The exact design of the Union's framework for funding energy efficiency and renewable energy will be defined in the coming months, as the Commission tables its proposals for the sector-specific programmes.

Your ideas will provide a valuable input to the ongoing preparation of the Commission proposals for the post-2013 spending programmes. I look forward to further dialogue with you on how to promote energy efficiency and sustainability in the new MFF for 2014-2020.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a vertical line on the left that curves into a wide, shallow arch.

José Manuel BARROSO