

José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission
European Commission
Berlaymont

Copy to:

- Günther Oettinger, Commissioner for Energy
- Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science
- Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for Regional Development
- Connie Hedegaard, Commissioner for Climate Action
- Andris Piebalgs, Commissioner for Development

Strasbourg/ Brussels 14 September 2011

MEPs' support for a strong and dedicated follow-up of the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE) within the Multi-annual Financial Framework

Dear Mr. Barroso,

Dear President of the European Commission,

The European Union has developed an **ambitious set of legislation** and strategic decisions in order to make the **EU competitive, sustainable and inclusive**: Strategy EU2020, the Renewable Energy Directive, the recast EPBD, the Energy Efficiency Plan, the upcoming Energy Efficiency Directive – all are milestones in the development of the EU. But it takes more to win the future: all policies need strong support to make them happen – they need **involvement and activation of stakeholders** on the ground... and they need a tool which addresses non-technical issues and barriers on the markets.

With the **Intelligent Energy Europe** programme, the European Commission had developed such a unique tool and proven to understand the necessities of renewables and efficiency markets and the needs of customers all over Europe. The Commission should continue this very constructive effort which brings EU goals to where real changes take place: right on the ground – on the markets, in the cities, in the lives and homes of our citizens.

With great pleasure, we followed the work, the success and the added value of the IEE programme and its Executive Agency (EACI) in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency over the last years. Hundreds of impressive projects, thousands of organisations and tens of thousands of key actors have been inspired, empowered, guided and co-funded by this very successful programme. And they reached millions of EU citizens with their activities.

Activities like the outstanding **Covenant of Mayors**, which brings the Mayors and Cities together in an impressive joint effort, are unprecedented and should be continued and intensified.

Without the co-funding of the IEE programme, most of these activities would not have been possible – a huge loss for the future of EU energy policies and the development of innovative markets and new jobs.

IEE has become one of the strongest tools of the European Commission and especially DG Energy to accompany, stabilise and improve the implementation of existing EU legislation successfully by triggering an impressive variety of activities all over the European Union. Therefore, **DG Energy**

should remain the lead in the development of sustainable energy markets by keeping its own and unique instrument – the IEE programme.

Especially in times of crisis, when markets are weak and doubts over the legitimacy of the European Union raise among EU citizens, programmes like IEE are crucial to be close to EU citizens, to the small and medium enterprises, to the mayors and cities of Europe. Decentralised and bottom-up activities are crucial to levy the huge creativity, the talent and the commitment of EU citizens. Communication and exchange of good practice are a core duty of the European Institutions – a duty which is both decentralised and embracing the whole of the EU.

In other words: Successful sustainable energy policy requires three tools – a stick, a carrot and a tambourine. IEE has always been the tambourine of the European Commission - to

- Create favourable market conditions
- Shape policy development and implementation
- Prepare the ground for investments
- Build capacity and skills
- Inform stakeholders and fostering commitment

Therefore, we urge you and the European Commission to assure a dedicated and visible place for Intelligent Energy Europe and its highly effective Executive Agency EACI or an improved and upgraded IEE successor programme within the Multi-annual Financial Framework. DG Energy should keep its only instrument to be able to react quickly on new market developments and to use corrective measures to assure a satisfying implementation of EU sustainable energy legislation.

We, MEPs from all major political groups of the European Parliament would hereby like to express our **strong support** for an ambitious, enlarged and secured **follow-up** of the highly important **Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE)**.

We therefore would be grateful if you would clarify for us where in the MFF you foresee this programme being funded and how the institutional setting will be designed in order to continue the success of IEE. We are ready to discuss with you any time on your ideas and look forward to your answer.

Kind regards

Maria Da Graça Carvalho (MEP, EPP)

Fiona Hall (MEP, ALDE)

Bendt Bendtsen (MEP, EPP)

Claude Turmes (MEP, Greens)

Anni Podimata (MEP, S&D)

Paul Rübigen (MEP, EPP)

Graham Watson (MEP, ALDE)

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