

Antonis Samaras
Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic
GREECE

Brussels, 14th March 2014

**Subject: European Summit Meeting, 20th and 21st March 2014
Energy Efficiency in the EU 2030 Climate and Energy Policy**

Dear Mr Samaras,

Energy efficiency, when ambitiously pursued, holds enormous potential for reducing energy cost and dependency, reducing GHG emissions, and also boosting job creation, economic growth and welfare. Beyond these facts, the current discussion around the 2030 climate and energy targets and, specifically, the review of progress on energy efficiency, provides a unique opportunity to turn this potential into reality.

A clear political call for immediate ambition, linked to an ambitious objective for energy efficiency in the buildings sector for 2030 is needed to ensure that the enormous job creation and economic potential tied up in this sector will not be lost for a generation. The 31 partners of the Renovate Europe Campaign, bringing together industry, cities, NGOs, trade unions and think tanks, ask you to support real, ambitious action in this field during the upcoming Summit in Brussels on the 20th and 21st March.

We specifically ask that you call on the European Commission to adopt ambitious policy proposals on energy efficiency following its upcoming assessment of progress on energy efficiency and thus equip the EU with a strong ambition in this field. In particular, the enabling role of the building sector should be fully recognised and equipped with a dedicated target for 2030.

The buildings sector consumes 40% of our energy and thus offers the highest, cost-effective savings potential. The materials, equipment and technology needed to significantly reduce energy demand in buildings are with us today and our 31 partners stand ready to support ambitious action in this field. Our industry is a fully innovative, competitive, world-leading industry striving to maintain its leadership position but its full potential is not yet optimised. Not least, without energetic political commitment, four fifths of the savings potential in the sector will be lost in period to 2030.

We thus need political support, linked to leadership and vision towards 2030, in the struggle to upscale renovation in the EU building stock. Such leadership, completed by decisive action to lift non-technological barriers in the sector, will provide to our sector the investment horizon and confidence required to unlock the potential. Such leadership will help the building sector **move the EU out of the fragile economic state** it is in and into a new, vibrant stage that will benefit all in the EU.

Relying on your support for our call, we remain committed and ready to provide you with further information now, or in the future, on how to reap the benefits of increased energy efficiency in the buildings sector.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Joyce
Renovate Europe Campaign Director

European Contributing Partners



National Contributing Partners



European Supporting Partners



National Supporting Partners



Additional information

Recent studies by the Fraunhofer Institute have shown that the EU has a cost-effective final energy savings potential of 41% by 2030. Tapping this potential could provide the EU with a number of economic and social benefits: it would boost EU competitiveness through lowering energy costs as households and industry would save over €239bn annually by 2030 in lower energy bills¹, increase net employment by at least 400,000 jobs by 2020² and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 49%-61% compared to 1990 levels³.

For the residential (buildings) sector, the savings potential was found to be 61% and in the tertiary (buildings) sector, it is 36%. In fact, this means that on its own, ambitious renovation of the EU building stock could reduce the primary energy consumption of the EU by a full 22% by 2030.

Acting ambitiously on existing buildings, as called for by the Renovate Europe Campaign will lead, by 2020, to:

- The creation of at least 2 million local, direct, additional jobs in the EU
- A boost to public finances of around €260 billion
- A reduction in primary energy use of about 9%, boosting energy security

¹Fraunhofer ISI, *Concrete Paths of the European Union to the 2°C Scenario*, 2012

²European Commission, *Impact Assessment – EU Energy Efficiency Directive*, SEC (2011)779

³Fraunhofer ISI, *Analysis of a European Reference Target System for 2030*, 2013