

To: President Ursula von der Leyen

Cc: Executive Vice-President Ribera, Executive Vice-President Fitto, Executive Vice-President Séjourné, Commissioner Jørgensen, Commissioner Hoekstra, Commissioner Roswall

Brussels, 15 April 2026

Subject: Energy Efficiency for Energy Security

Dear President von der Leyen,

The European Union is entering an energy crisis of exceptional magnitude, driven by escalating geopolitical instability and rising energy prices. The scale of this crisis demands a response that is immediate and coordinated, finding solutions that Europe can rapidly deploy at scale, with its own mature industrial and technological capabilities.

In this context, we are convinced that the European Council and the European Commission should prioritise energy efficiency as an EU home-grown resource to improve energy independence. Currently, the EU imports around 57% of its primary energy. Without post-2000 efficiency gains, this figure would have risen dramatically to approximately 73% dependency, making it far more vulnerable to global market shocks and supply disruptions.¹

In a resource-constrained continent, the first step to address an energy crisis is to optimise what we have to reduce waste and improve performance. This is precisely what energy efficiency delivers. It corrects systemic inefficiencies and design flaws that cause Europe to consume more energy than necessary to produce, move, and live comfortably. Evidence shows that energy demand can fall while GDP continues to grow. According to the International Energy Agency the global economy today produces 36% more GDP per unit of energy than in 2000 and in manufacturing alone, the EU now produces 50% more added value with 25% less energy compared to 2000. Producing more with less is not theoretical; it is already happening.²

The technologies to improve energy efficiency are available and largely developed in Europe, with limited exposure to raw material shortages. They can be deployed across Member States and sectors - buildings, industry, and transport - to deliver significant demand reduction, system optimisation, demand flexibility and cost relief, with short payback periods given the high cost of fossil fuel imports. On March 31, Commissioner Jørgensen highlighted that since the beginning of the conflict, prices in the EU have risen by around 70% for gas and by 60% for oil and in financial terms, after only 30 days of conflict, this translated into added EUR 14 billion to the Union's fossil fuels import bill.³

While energy-intensive industries require targeted and long-term industrial strategies, existing technologies could already electrify around 60% of industrial heat demand today, potentially raising to 90% by 2035 with emerging solutions⁴. In buildings, readily available products and technologies can decarbonise and reduce energy demand by up to 80% while reducing energy bills and improving comfort for citizens.

¹ [Update of the governance of the Energy Union and climate action, DENEFF, 2026](#)

² [Economic growth, International Energy Agency, 2025](#)

³ [EU Commissioner for Housing and Energy Dan Jørgensen on LinkedIn on the crisis in the Middle East, 2026.](#)

⁴ [Industrial Electrification: Implications, Risks, and Strategies for Manufacturing's Sustainable Future, Siemens, 2025](#)

Measures and technologies targeted at reducing energy needs are key enablers of faster and a more affordable electrification that is essential to reducing Europe's dependence on imported fossil fuels and strengthening energy security. Ignoring this lever in the current context does not make economic sense and would be difficult to explain to European citizens and businesses why such an obvious and deployable solution is not being fully leveraged.

This effort should also align with Europe's growing water challenge. The energy–water nexus is clear: deploying energy efficient solutions for water abstraction and management alongside water efficient approaches to energy generation and manufacturing, is essential to reducing overall energy consumption in Europe and enhancing water–energy resilience. Addressing both simultaneously through efficiency is not only possible, but necessary to strengthen Europe's overall independence through resource resilience and competitiveness.

We greatly appreciated your April 14 statement on the impact of the situation in the Middle East on the European Union⁵ and are encouraged by your commitment to placing energy efficiency at the core of the Commission's forthcoming communication to be presented to leaders next week.

Building on this momentum, we urge you to engage further with stakeholders across the energy efficiency industrial ecosystem. We would like to offer our support to identify, within weeks, cross-sectoral, quick-to-deploy energy efficiency solutions that can increase Europe's energy security and develop a concrete action plan for their large-scale implementation. This would require, in particular, the full and accelerated implementation of existing EU energy efficiency legislation and the fast-tracking of permitting, financing and investment schemes across sectors.

The technologies exist. The economic case is clear. The strategic necessity is undeniable. In the context of an unprecedented energy crisis, acting decisively on energy efficiency to strengthen Europe's energy security is an opportunity to lead with confidence and determination.

Yours sincerely,

The following page features the logos of the 33 cosignatories.

⁵ [Statement by President von der Leyen on the impact of the situation in the Middle East on the European Union, 14 April 2026](#)

