

## Key Arguments in favour of energy savings

### **1. Energy savings help fighting climate change**

If we want to keep a chance to maintain global warming within the limits of two degrees by the end of the century, we have to cut our greenhouse gas emissions. The biggest potential for doing so is to consume less energy. In 2013, 40% of the energy we consume in Europe is aimed to warm (in winter) and cool (in summer) our houses. In parallel, transport represents 31% of our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. It means we need to save energy to save the planet. By better isolating our houses and shifting to a sober transport system, we help reaching our climate goal.

### **2. Energy savings reduce our trade deficit**

In 2013, the EU spent EUR 421 billion to buy energy from abroad, mostly gas from Russia. This amount is equivalent to nearly EUR 1.2 billion per day; or EUR 1,200 for each inhabitant of the European Union. Reducing our consumption is the only way to cut our dependency to Russian gas and to stop depending on the goodwill of Putin and Gazprom.

### **3. Energy savings diminish energy bills**

Energy poverty is affecting some 50-125 million EU citizens. It means 14 to 36% of the population is having difficulties to pay their electricity and gas bills, or can't properly warm their house. A better insulation of the housing stock, together with more efficient appliances and a smarter way to consume energy (for example avoid using the washing machine during demand peaks) would allow all of us gaining purchase power.

### **4. Energy savings create jobs and growth**

In a context of economic downturn, energy efficiency is a sector leading to job creation. Builders, craftsmen, installers, architects, engineers... we need more of them to renovate houses, design sober appliances and sober cars, install efficient equipment. It is acknowledged that up to 2 million jobs could be created in the area of energy efficiency measures alone by 2020 and possibly another 2 million jobs by 2030. For each million euro invested in savings measures, on average 17 jobs are created.

### **5. Energy savings improve the competitiveness of our companies**

Energy and resources represent 20 to 50% of overall production costs for the manufacturing industry. For geological and structural reasons, Europe will always have higher electricity and gas prices than major competitors like US or China. Hence if we improve the energy and resource efficiency of our manufacturing processes, EU industry will remain cost-competitive to sell products on the world market.

### **6. Energy efficiency is a true European project**

Solidarity is at the core of the European project. For historical reasons, economies from Central and Eastern Europe are still quite inefficient. To produce one unit of GDP, you need to consume eight times more energy in Bulgaria than in Denmark. Energy efficiency helps these economies to converge and reduces macro-economic imbalance.