ENERGY EFFICIENCY
Why we need a higher target for 2030

“A binding 30% objective for energy efficiency by 2030 is to me the minimum if we want to be credible”

HIGHER AMBITION...

SAVES LIVES
Better air quality from an ambitious EU efficiency target can save

225,000 lives

REDUCES DEPENDENCY ON ENERGY IMPORTS

- €290BN SAVED
- 30%
- €528BN SAVED
- 40%

SPEND LESS
Savings on fossil fuel imports compared to business as usual

-15%

USE LESS
Gas demand drops dramatically with a 40% target

-34%

1%

IMPROVEMENT IN EFFICIENCY

LIFTS

7 MILLION PEOPLE
OUT OF ENERGY POVERTY

TACKLES
FUEL POVERTY

SAVES THE ANNUAL CO₂ EMISSIONS OF

12 MILLION CARS

BOOSTS
CLIMATE ACTION
REFERENCES

‘A binding 30% objective for energy efficiency by 2030 is to me the minimum if we want to be credible’. See p4 of President Juncker’s mission letters from November 2014 to Vice-President Šefčovič and Commissioner Arias Cañete.

The better air quality resulting from an ambitious EU energy efficiency target can save 225,000 lives. Data from the Commission’s draft impact assessment. Compared to the current 27% target, the number of life years gained with a 30% target increases by 2.5 million or about 31,000 lives (using EU data on average life expectancy). The number of life years gained increases by over 18 million – 225,000 lives – with the 40% target recommend by the European Parliament. It is sobering to note that tens to hundreds of thousands of Europeans will die prematurely if the 2030 efficiency target is not increased.

The data on fossil fuel cost savings and reduced gas demand is from the Commission’s draft impact assessment.

Every one percentage point increase in the 2030 target means lifting 7 million people out of energy poverty. A quote by Commissioner Arias Cañete in Reuters (09/09/2016). The estimate divides the additional investment needed in the buildings sector to meet a higher target by the cost of upgrading homes to a ‘deep renovation’ standard. There are currently about 55 million energy poor in Europe, i.e. people who cannot afford to adequately heat or cool their homes.

Every 1% improvement in energy efficiency means saving the (equivalent of the) annual CO2 emissions of 12 million cars. An additional 1 percentage point of energy savings translates into about 20 million tons of oil equivalent. According to BP, this is about 60 million tons of CO2. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, average annual emissions are about 5 tons per car. So 12 million cars (or more, given that average annual emissions tend to be lower in Europe)