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WORKING PAPER

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CONTRIBUTION

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	DK comments on the revised EED proposal

Delegations will find in the annex the DK comments on the revised Energy Efficiency Directive proposal.



The Danish comments on the REV3 of the energy efficiency directive

Date
18.maj 2017

PLEASE NOTE THAT DENMARK HOLDS A GENERAL RESERVATION AND A SCRUTINY RESERVATION ON THE ENTIRE PROPOSAL AND THESE COMMENTS ARE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ANY SUBSEQUENT POSITIONS TAKEN

General comments

Denmark welcomes the presidency's third revision of the Commission's proposal of the revised energy efficiency directive (EED), and finds it important that the EED continues to be a strong instrument in ensuring that the EU as a whole delivers on energy efficiency.

Denmark finds, however, that the latest revision weakens the level of ambition significantly. . An ambitious energy savings obligation is a crucial element of a revised EED, since this instrument is expected to deliver the majority of the savings of the entire directive. The level of ambition in the current draft has been severely diluted by reducing the target as well as placing side by side the counting of the production of renewable energy with end-use energy savings. Furthermore, in view of the political nature of the discussions regarding the EE-target and the energy savings obligation, we do not foresee that it will be possible to draw any conclusions on these issues before the meeting of the Energy Council in June.

Article 1

Denmark expects to support a binding 30 pct. target on energy efficiency, and would like to repeat, in line with other Member States, the need of discussing the character of the target at ministerial level. Until such a discussion has taken place Denmark would prefer to keep the Commission's proposal in brackets in article 1.

Article 7

The energy savings obligation must continuously be a strong policy instrument to ensure broad energy efficiency progress at Member State level, since this has proven to be a cost effective way to tap into the large potential for increased, profitable energy efficiency still existing in the EU. Thus, Denmark regrets the revision of article 7 regarding the lowering of the level of ambition from 1,5 to 1,4 pct. annual savings, and does not find a reduction of the energy savings target as a suitable solution for article 7. The Commission's impact assessment has estimated that a continuation of

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the energy savings obligation, with its current level of ambition, will contribute to attracting private funding for energy efficiency, thus contributing to the achievement of the EE target by 2030

Furthermore, Denmark finds it important that Member States retain sufficient flexibility to achieve the energy savings through the most cost effective means. However, flexibility should be given within policy measures and instruments related to energy savings. The latest proposal of allowing renewable energy production to be recognized as a part of the energy savings obligation on equal terms with end-use energy savings is an unacceptable dilution of the obligation.

It is currently not clear what the impacts will be, as well as the consequences in terms of fulfilling the EU 2030 targets, if the recent changes to the energy savings obligation will be kept in its current wording.

Article 9-11

Denmark is in general positive towards the latest revision concerning billing and consumption information. However, Denmark would like to raise two concerns. Firstly, Denmark finds that the requirement set out in Annex VII para. 3 regarding further information in or with the bill suggested in litra a-d should be changed. Denmark acknowledges that the information can be important for the consumer, but finds, that this information should not necessarily be given “in or with the bill”. In light of this, Denmark suggests to delete the “in or with the bill”. The bill should be given in clear and understandable terms, but the information in litra a-d can make the bill unclear to understand for the consumers, since further information in the bill will be rather confusing than helpful for the consumer. Thus, Denmark suggests that the information could be given through other means such as via apps, websites or other platforms, which the energy suppliers find most suitable.

Secondly, Denmark suggests a change to para. 2 in Annex VII, in order to make the requirement of monthly billing or consumption information conditional on that it is cost-effective to supply such information. Denmark has suggested this earlier due to the fact that a lot of the Danish heat suppliers have invested in so-called “drive-by-meters”, which the Commission has expressed, can be considered as remotely readable meters. However, if a heat supplier with drive-by-meters should deliver billing or consumption information monthly, it would most likely not be cost effective.