



CEDEC Press Release

Europe cannot afford inertia in its energy and climate policies

Brussels, 26 June 2014. Today and tomorrow, the European Heads of State and Governments will meet to discuss, among other issues, the policy framework for climate and energy for the decade after 2020. The European Commission's proposal from earlier this year proposes to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 40% and a European headline target of 27% Renewable Energy by 2030.

While CEDEC generally supports these targets, a European-wide target for Renewable Energy without a break-down into legally binding national targets, lacks accountability. "Without a clear commitment by each Member State, a fair and dependable effort sharing with enforceability of the European target are not ensured. Europe simply cannot afford to fall into inertia regarding its climate and energy policies. Only enforceable targets will contribute to reaching these objectives at lowest cost, decreasing risks and costs for investors like local energy companies", says **Gert De Block, Secretary General of CEDEC**.

With regard to Energy Efficiency, the European Commission is expected to make proposals in its Energy Efficiency review. In its communication on Energy Security as a response to the on-going political crisis on Ukraine, the European Commission had addressed Energy Efficiency as crucial political short-term measure to energy security of supply.

"Energy Efficiency without a doubt has to remain a central pillar of the EU's climate and energy policies. CEDEC believes that the full implementation of the existing Energy Efficiency policies are of utmost urgency. The current situation again shows that a more decentralised energy system with the exploitation of domestic resources, such as renewables, and an efficient distribution and consumption of energy are the best way to ensure security of supply for Europe's citizens", **Gert De Block** added.

CEDEC Background information

CEDEC represents the interests of local and regional energy companies.

CEDEC represents 1500 companies with a total turnover of 120 billion Euros, serving 85 million electricity and gas customers & connections, with more than 350.000 employees. These predominantly medium-sized local and regional energy companies have developed activities as electricity and heat generators, electricity and gas distribution grid & metering operators and energy (services) suppliers.

The wide range of services provided by local utility companies is reliable, sustainable and close to the customer. Through their high investments, they make a significant contribution to local and regional economic development.