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EU Strategy on Heating and Cooling : an important step towards integrating heating and cooling into EU energy policy

On the day of the 2nd **Edition of "Thermal Energy Forum" in Bucharest**, ARPEE welcomes the EU Commission Communication "**An EU Strategy on Heating and Cooling**" as an important step towards a framework for integrating heating and cooling into EU energy policy. The new EU Strategy on Heating and Cooling is the first conclusion of high quality work and continuous commitment by the European Commission. The Communication was published on 16th February within the Sustainable Energy Security Package as a part of the Energy Union strategy. Until now, the heating and cooling sector was not subject to a dedicated EU level assessment .

Gerard Verdebout, President of ARPEE, commented: "The EU Strategy on Heating and Cooling aims at providing a dedicated approach to heat/heating and cooling sector, as a major part of the EU energy landscape, addressing all its components: buildings, households, industry as well as developing synergies within the whole energy system through efficient District Heating and Cooling (DHC). A holistic and dedicated approach to the heat sector is now reflected by proposing to improve already available tools within the relevant EU Directives: Energy Efficiency Directive, the Energy Performance of Building Directive and the Renewables Energy Directive. Energy-efficiency services and DHC are rightly considered as effective tools for energy efficient heating and cooling."

ARPEE believes that a sound and successful implementation of the EU Strategy on Heating and Cooling should be based in the future on principles of: **cost-effective energy savings along the entire energy chain** (generation, transmission, distribution and consumption) measured in primary energy; **non-discrimination against installations above 20 MW** (which are subject to the EU ETS, despite greater energy efficiency and lower emissions than other solutions below 20 MW produce, but are not subject to the EU ETS) and **no offset between buildings' energy consumption and (on-site) energy production** (which may hide poor energy performance of buildings). In addition, **all barriers** to efficient heating and cooling should be analysed and addressed to unlock the full potential for cost-effective energy savings in Europe with a key role played by energy - efficiency services market.

One year ago , ARPEE launched a position paper on "**Romania need a Strategy for Heat**". We hope this EU Strategy for Heat and Cooling will be transposed and adapted into the new Romanian Energy Strategy and will provides a coherent framework for **integrating efficient heating and cooling into Romanian energy policy by focusing action on stopping the energy leakage from buildings, maximizing the efficiency and sustainability of District heating systems, supporting efficiency in industry and supporting the benefits of integrating heating plants into the energy system through high efficiency cogeneration.**

ARPEE is the **Romanian Association for the Promotion of Energy Efficiency**. It is the romanian representative inside EFIEES, European Federation of Intelligent Energy Efficiency Services who gathers professional organizations from twelve EU Member States representing the interests of energy-efficiency service companies.

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