

## EFIEES' views on the Affordable Energy Action Plan

*EFIEES is the voice of private energy service companies (ESCOs) and their national associations across Europe. Our members represent over 100.000 professionals committed to the design and implementation of energy efficiency measures in public and private buildings, industrial facilities, as well as to the efficient operation of district heating & cooling networks*

**EFIEES welcomes the Commission's Affordable Energy Action plan** and its will to activate an ambitious program to support EU citizens, businesses and industry, by driving growth and investment while reinforcing decarbonisation efforts. We do believe that - by presenting not only measures to lower energy bills in the short term, but also actions to reinforce EU energy systems, to optimise energy consumption, and to mitigate future price-shocks - the Commission is adequately addressing the energy related issues faced by European industries and citizens.

Energy bills are indeed determined by a combination of factors that can be addressed by structural changes and policy support. EFIEES particularly welcomes that improving energy efficiency is featured among the three enablers of this action plan to drop EU's fossil fuel import bill. Yet, we also take this opportunity to emphasise that electrification is not the only way to enhance energy efficiency in the EU. **Building a resilient and well-functioning energy system requires to make the most out of the resources and infrastructures we already have in Europe, including at local level. Decarbonised and efficient thermal solutions** such as efficient district heating and cooling (EDHC) networks should always be mentioned and promoted, alongside electrification, when discussing the efficiency of EU energy system. EFIEES is thus looking forward to the Heating & Cooling strategy to be presented early 2026. As this action rightly states, we need to enhance heating and cooling efficiency by scaling up heat recovery, reuse, and heat pump deployment. Expanding waste heat recovery in industrial processes and energy services will indeed improve system efficiency and cut costs

The fourth action of this action plan is rightly keeping energy efficiency and energy savings at the heart of EU decarbonisation and growth strategy, and we are pleased to see energy efficiency identified as a key contributor for affordable energy in industry and households, and for industrial competitiveness. There is a need to enhance the market for energy efficiency providers who help EU industries and buildings owners in containing, monitoring and reducing their energy and CO2 consumption. In that sense, **energy management solutions, provided by Energy Service Companies (ESCOs)** have a key role to play as they allow to **contain energy consumption while guaranteeing energy and CO2 performance sustained over time**. Therefore, EFIEES stands ready to support the European Energy Efficiency Financing Coalition in its mission to improve access to capital, provide financial incentives to support market actors who provide energy efficiency solutions for enterprises, with the aim of doubling the Energy Services Companies (ESCOs) market.