



**Date**  
10 June 2022

**Case No** 2022 - 85

**Joint Statement:  
Urgent Action on Energy Efficiency  
The cleanest energy is the energy we don't use**

Energy efficiency policies have proven successful in reducing energy bills, protecting consumers and enhancing energy security. They are also central to achieving global goals for net zero emissions from energy. Energy efficiency is particularly important in this decade, offering opportunities to reduce emissions quickly as well as reducing the overall investment requirements of net zero goals and making our net zero goals more achievable. As part of people-centred clean energy transitions, an emphasis on energy efficiency also provides an opportunity to create more jobs, support economic growth and industrial output. However, the current scale of energy efficiency action is not sufficient and there is a need to accelerate implementation on a global level.

Energy efficiency and demand side action have a particularly important role to play now as global energy prices are high and volatile, hurting households, industries and entire economies. Energy efficiency offers immediate opportunities to reduce energy costs and reduce reliance on imported fuels. IEA analysis shows the potential for energy efficiency and energy saving actions by government, businesses and households to quickly reduce consumption. Faster progress on energy efficiency has for example the potential to avoid 95 EJ a year of final energy consumption by the end of this decade.

Therefore, on the occasion of the IEA's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency taking place in Sønderborg, Denmark, and the ministerial roundtable chaired by Dan Jørgensen, Danish Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities, the participants at the event endorsed a joint statement:

Emphasising the central importance of energy efficiency for relieving pressure on consumers, supporting energy security and decreased reliance on energy imports,



Recognising the value of early action on energy efficiency to cost-effectively accelerate progress towards net zero energy targets.

Welcoming the new IEA research highlighting the significant environmental, economic and social benefits of early action on energy efficiency, particularly between now and 2030

Welcoming the strategic principles and policy toolkits (the '**Sønderborg Action Plan**') illustrating the options available to governments

Intending to continue to seek opportunities for exchange and collaboration towards better policy making and implementation of energy efficiency actions, asking the IEA to continue to facilitate and support these actions, and calling on all governments, industry, enterprises and stakeholders to strengthen their action on energy efficiency.

Participants:

African Union  
Austria  
Australia  
Canada  
Chile  
Czech Republic  
Estonia  
European Union  
France  
Germany  
Hungary  
Italy  
Indonesia  
Ireland  
Japan  
Lithuania  
Mexico  
New Zealand  
Panama  
Poland  
Romania  
United Kingdom  
United States  
Senegal  
Sweden  
Turkey