

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000234/25
to the Commission**

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(21 January 2025)

Subject: Establishing a European Day for Energy Saving and Sustainable Lifestyles

For 20 years, Radio Rai 2's 'Caterpillar' programme led the 'M'illumino di meno' ('Dim the Lights') campaign, which was awarded the Medal of the President of Italy and enjoys the patronage of the European Parliament. The campaign resulted in the Italian institutions enshrining 16 February — the date when the Kyoto Protocol entered into force in 2005 — in law as the 'National Day for Energy Saving and Sustainable Lifestyles'.

Energy saving plays a key role in the fight against climate change, so it is crucial we spread the word among the EU public, while also highlighting responsible energy use and, more generally, sustainable lifestyles.

In this regard, could the Commission say whether it is considering making 16 February the 'European Day for Energy Saving and Sustainable Lifestyles' and complementing the event with relevant initiatives in all Member States?

Submitted: 21.1.2025

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(24 April 2025)

The Commission agrees on the importance of promoting energy efficiency, including energy savings. Energy efficiency is the cheapest, safest and cleanest way to reduce our reliance on fossil fuel imports from Russia, contribute to decarbonisation and increase EU's competitiveness.

However, the Commission is currently not considering making 16 February the 'European Day for Energy Saving and Sustainable Lifestyles'.

The Commission is dedicated to energy efficiency policy, including energy savings. The recently revised Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) ⁽¹⁾ made the headline EU target for energy efficiency binding and raised the ambition for energy efficiency across the board.

This includes the obligations for Member States to step up information awareness measures, including campaigns, and establish one-stop shops for energy efficiency.

Energy efficiency was one of the three main pillars of the REPowerEU Communication of 18 May 2022, which was accompanied by the EU Save Energy Communication.

In 2022, the Commission partnered with the International Energy Agency and launched the 'Playing my part' campaign ⁽²⁾, which outlined simple steps that citizens can take to reduce their energy use.

In 2024, the Commission organised a Citizens' Panel on energy efficiency to promote the topic among citizens. The Panel convened 150 randomly selected citizens representing all Member States, who discussed actions which could be taken on energy efficiency and adopted 13 final recommendations for the Commission.

The importance of energy efficiency for competitiveness, energy security and decarbonisation was recently confirmed in the Clean Industrial Deal and the Affordable Energy Action Plan.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AJOL_2023_231_R_0001&qid=1695186598766

⁽²⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/markets-and-consumers/actions-and-measures-energy-prices/playing-my-part_en