



EUROHEAT & POWER

The International Association
for Combined Heat & Power
and District Heating & Cooling

To the Members of
Committee on Energy Policy,
Danish Parliament

Brussels, 9 March 2006

District heating and energy conservation

Dear Members of Parliament,

From our Danish member association Dansk Fjernvarme, we have received information about the current Danish debate about energy savings measures, and have been invited to give our contribution.

Making the case for district heating (DH) seems unnecessary in a Danish context, as Denmark for many years has been seen as the "home country" of that particular technology. Seeing the energy consumption for heating purposes not only as an individual matter but also as an element of a comprehensive picture of the whole energy chain in a society, is very much *the* argument for DH. Denmark was one of the first countries to use this integrated approach. It is exactly this approach that we, the European association for district heating and cogeneration, are promoting on every level possible.

What not only we, but also the EU are fighting is the tendency to view final energy consumption in buildings out of context. On the European level newer legislation dealing with energy efficiency recognizes the need to provide consumers and authorities with a complete picture of energy use on building level.

The Buildings Directive (2002/91) specifies that the positive influence of district heating and cooling shall be included in the calculation of the energy performance of a building. This can only be done by using an integrated approach including the whole district heating or cooling production and distribution system. The related CEN pre-standards are based on this very principle which is also guiding already existing buildings regulations in Germany and Sweden.

In the same line of thinking, the Directive on Energy Services specifically mentions district heating and cooling systems as energy efficiency improvement measures in themselves. No other energy distribution system gains this status. This is clearly in recognition of the contribution of district heating and cooling to the efficiency of the energy system outside the buildings.

To facilitate the easy creation of the whole picture of building energy use, Euroheat & Power is currently aiming at further developing a system whereby final consumption of energy for heating and hot water purposes is described in terms of primary resources. The method to calculate the "primary resource factors" for district heating and cooling systems is being developed in the context of an EU-supported project under the title Ecoheatcool.

Denmark is and has for many years been an example for others - as a country with the will and ability to use the integrated approach to energy supply for heating purposes. We are also impressed by the new and very ambitious national target for energy conservation. But it seems that Denmark, when setting conservation targets and choosing methods, is moving in a direction directly opposite to not only the integrated approach initially developed and successfully used by Denmark itself, but also to the development at the European level.

Choosing targets and methods for energy conservation beyond what is required in EU legislation is a national matter. But we will use this opportunity to express our surprise and disappointment, that the best existing model of an integrated approach to energy supply and district heating, appears now to be moving in the opposite and – we believe - false direction. We will clearly miss the good example.

Should this letter give rise to further questions, Euroheat & Power will be at your disposal.

Yours sincerely,



Tomas Bruce
President



Sabine Froning
Managing Director