



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF ENERGY, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

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29 April 2020

(SENT BY E-MAIL)

Ms. Claudia Canevari
Head of Unit C3
DG Energy
European Commission

Dear Ms Canevari,

Subject: Submission of the annual report 2020 on the progress achieved towards energy efficiency targets

I am referring to the European Commission's e-mail dated 16/04/20 on the above subject and I would like to inform you that Cyprus will not be in a position to submit by 30 of April the annual report provided under Article 24(1) of the Energy Efficiency Directive.

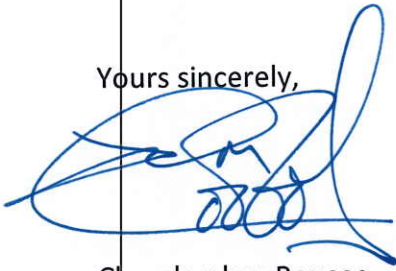
This is due to the situation created by the Covid-19 pandemic and the decision that the Cyprus Government, like other EU MS Governments, had to take in order to contain the spread of the virus on grounds of public health. Since the middle of March, a national lockdown is in effect, resulting to the majority of employees working from home and public authorities operating with considerably reduced staff. This causes a significant negative impact on the public administration's capability.

This situation significantly hinders the gathering of the necessary data needed to perform the energy savings calculations for a number of measures implemented in 2018 and 2019 in the public sector. Many primary data need first to be physically collected in order to be compiled in a digital form. The data concerns the replacement of a large number of air conditioners and LED lamps in public buildings all over Cyprus. The data collection requires the involvement and coordination of a

large number of personnel. Due to the current situation, this proves to be more time consuming, since the responsible authority for data collection operates with limited personnel. At the same time, it has to perform priority works related to the proper operation, including maintenance, of the electromechanical equipment in public hospitals.

In light of the above, it is foreseen that Cyprus's annual report will be submitted to the European Commission by the end of June 2020. I strongly believe that the above request is justifiable on grounds of *force majeure* that the Covid-19 pandemic has created. In this respect, may I remind you that the European Commission¹ has already acknowledged that the outbreak of the coronavirus is having a significant impact on Member States' administrative capacities as they take the measures necessary to protect their citizens and for this reason several deadlines related to infringement and pre-infringement procedures have been extended.

Yours sincerely,



Charalambos Rousos
Actg Director Energy Service
for Permanent Secretary

¹ Letter of Deputy Secretary General of the European Commission, Ms Celine Gauer, dated 23/03/2020 (Ref. Ares (2020)1712565-23/03/20).