

Expert Workshop

Energy Efficiency: Past Developments & Future Potentials

26-27 April 2004

**IEA Headquarters Paris
Floor 1 Conference room**

Welcome remarks by Mr. Mandil, Monday 26 April 09h30

Ladies and Gentlemen: It is my pleasure to welcome you to this workshop on Energy Efficiency: Past Development and Future Potential.

As the title indicates the workshop will both take a look back at past energy efficiency developments, and a look to the future to discuss how much potential there is for further improving efficiency. Together the two days will provide us with an excellent basis to develop better energy efficiency policy advice.

As some of you know the International Energy Agency was established 30 years ago as a response to the oil supply disruptions in 1973/74. Since the beginning energy efficiency has been a key element in IEA governments' strategy to improve energy security and to reduce environmental impacts from energy use.

The IEA Secretariat has throughout the three decades since the organisation was founded provided data and analyses to help our member countries in the formulation of energy efficiency policies.

An important element of these efforts is the IEA Energy Indicator project. This project was initiated in 1996 with the aim to provide a better tool to assess energy efficiency developments. To collect and assess the data needed to establish these indicators we have worked closely with our member countries and other international indicator projects, especially programmes organised by the European Union.

As a result of the IEA indicator project we have now developed a new database containing detailed energy use information for all end-use sectors in most of our Member countries. This information has been the basis for a new book that the IEA has just published; *Oil Crises and Climate Challenges: 30 Years of Energy Use in IEA Countries*.

The book provides many important insights on how energy efficiency and other factors have affected energy use over the last 30 years. The most challenging finding is that while IEA countries achieved significant energy savings through the 1970s and most of the 1980s, the rate of energy savings has slowed since then. This indicates that the oil price shocks and the resulting energy policies did more to control growth in energy demand and CO₂ emissions than the energy efficiency and climate policies implemented in the 1990s.

Later this morning you will learn more about the findings from this important study. There will also be presentations of similar studies performed by colleagues in member countries. The afternoon will be devoted to discussion of how the IEA can work together with experts in our member countries, like you, to further enhance IEA analysis of energy efficiency developments.

Understanding what is behind past developments is key to assess how energy efficiency can be further improved. Tomorrow, we turn to the future, and ask the question “What is the potential for energy savings?” The answer to that question is crucial to identify which energy efficiency policies will be the most effective. You will examine various approaches for estimating energy efficiency potentials that can be harvested under different conditions. There will be presentations of a number of case studies and you will address both the costs involved in realising the potentials and the policies that will be needed.

Over the two days you will cover a lot of ground and I know you have a tight time schedule. I am however confident that the outcome of your discussions will provide very important insight as to how we can accelerate energy efficiency improvements.

I wish you a very successful workshop.