



## Call for complete energy policy

**T**he absence of a state energy efficiency policy for buildings on the island has significantly added to consumers' high electricity bills, the Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber (ETEK) warned this week.

Speaking during a press conference, in which ETEK announced its priorities and goals for the next three years, president Stelios Achniotis said the chamber was troubled that there was still no legal framework in Cyprus to determine the minimum level of insulation installed in buildings.

"For a number of years, around 80% of all buildings in Cyprus have been constructed with the

purpose of being rented or sold.

"In other words the person paying the developer is not the one who will use the building and, logically, will try to keep costs to a minimum," said Achniotis.

He added that as businesses cannot be trusted to make sensible decisions on their own, when it comes to constructing and insulating buildings, a law must be brought in to enforce minimum requirements.

The chamber, which is the technical consultant to the state and the corporate body of all qualified engineers in Cyprus, also voiced concern over a lack of legislation relating to Cyprus' search for natural gas in its ex-

clusive economic zone.

"The lack of a comprehensive energy policy is unfortunately the cause of bad decision making, delays and backtracking," said Achniotis.

The chamber is further calling on the state to assemble an energy strategy council which will act as an advisory body over the search for and management of natural gas.

"Even though ambitious targets are constantly being set in the energy sector, due to a number of reasons they are often not met. The application of a successful energy policy, which requires above all else political will, would help us reach these goals," Achniotis concluded.