



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to : delegations

Subject : Implementation of the framework Directives on the energy labelling and
ecodesign of energy-using products
- draft Council conclusions

Delegations will find attached the draft as prepared by the Presidency.

Draft Council conclusions on the implementation of the framework Directives on the energy labelling and ecodesign of energy-using products

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Recalls

That Council Directive 92/75/EEC of 22 September 1992 on the indication by labelling and standard product information of the consumption of energy and other resources by household appliances has allowed implementing Directives to be adopted on numerous products: refrigerators and freezers, driers, washing machines, washer-driers, dish-washers, lamps, electric ovens and air conditioners;

That, in parallel, Directives of the Council and of the European Parliament have imposed performance thresholds on certain types of equipment (Council Directive 92/42/EEC of 21 May 1992 on efficiency requirements for new hot-water boilers fired with liquid or gaseous fuels; Directive 96/57/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 September 1996 on energy efficiency requirements for household electric refrigerators, freezers and combinations thereof; Directive 2000/55/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 September 2000 on energy efficiency requirements for ballasts for fluorescent lighting);

That, by eliminating inefficient appliances and establishing efficiency competition for others, the combination of these two sets of rules has encouraged genuine development in the market for such appliances and an upward trend towards an improvement in energy efficiency;

That Directive 2005/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2005 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-using products provides for implementing measures that can take account, under Annex 1, of all environmental impacts of the products at all the stages of their life or, under Annex 2, can focus on specific types of impact or specific stages of the product's life;

That since 2005, under that Directive studies have been launched on a list of products considered as priorities for the application of Annex 2 in terms of products' energy consumption and a simplified and rapid process has been established for consulting parties and adopting implementing measures using the committee procedure;

Considering

The Council conclusions of 23 November 2006, whereby the Council adopted the Community action plan on energy efficiency, which aimed to intensify the process of realising the 20 % estimated potential savings in EU annual primary energy consumption by 2020, inter alia through the implementation of the Directive on the ecodesign of energy-using products and the revision of the Directive on the indication of the energy consumption of household appliances.

The conclusions of the European Council of 8 and 9 March 2007 called for the adoption of an integrated policy on climate and energy based on three fundamental objectives: combating climate change, security of supply and maintaining the competitiveness of European economies via affordable energy. More specifically, the combating of climate change was associated with three quantified targets: a 20 % reduction in EU energy consumption compared to projections for 2020, an increase in the proportion of renewable energy to 20 % of total EU primary energy consumption by 2020 and a 20 % decrease in greenhouse gas emissions.

The European Council conclusions of March and June 2008 confirm the firm and ambitious commitments made with regard to climate and energy policy. The EU wishes to maintain international leadership on climate change and energy. It is therefore firmly committed to maintaining the dynamic imposed on the negotiations on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. By delivering on all the targets set by the 2007 Spring European Council, the EU will make a major contribution to this objective; in connection with movements in the price of oil, the June European Council also urged the Member States and the Commission to expedite the implementation of the 2006 Action Plan on energy efficiency and consider its possible revision.

Improvement of energy efficiency is the cornerstone for the achievement of all the other goals. It will also play a decisive role in the modernisation of our economies and industries in adapting them more rapidly to the ineluctable rise in oil prices and contributing to the worldwide response to the challenges facing the environment.

WELCOMES the measures adopted in July 2008 under the committee procedure on the regulation of appliances on standby, the proposals to be presented to the Committee in September on public and tertiary lighting, external chargers and set-top boxes, and then in November on domestic lighting;

INVITES the Commission steadily and ambitiously to continue examining the products included in its current work programme;

INVITES the Commission to ensure that the implementing measures taken leave it up to the market to decide which technologies to use to achieve the required performance levels ;

HOPES that the assessment of the energy performance of products will be based not only on the assessment of the individual performance of appliances but also on their integration into consumption profiles that reflect how they are used;

HOPES in particular that the sale of the worst-performing domestic lighting products will be prohibited from 2010, where alternatives exist, targeting higher-output products to avoid any risk of disruption of supply to the internal market: from 2008 a proposal for a Regulation will launch a gradual process of prohibition in stages until all incandescent lamps and all the worst-performing lights are banned;

INVITES the Commission to put in place swiftly all the work connected with its work programme for the coming three years, on the 25 identified priority product groups and, working closely with the European Committee for Standardisation and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation, the standardisation remits required for the implementation of specific measures;

EMPHASISES that it is desirable for certain products that the implementing measures should include environmental criteria over and above energy efficiency, concerning for instance water, product life or waste; and therefore INVITES the Commission to propose implementing measures on the basis of Annex 1 to the Directive, concerning a generic ecodesign method for products involving integrated management of product development and/or the development of ecological profiles;

HOPES that the European programmes: Intelligent Energy Europe and the energy part of the Framework Programme on Research and Development will continue to fund actions in support of energy policies, in particular studies, information campaigns, technology projects and projects for the dissemination of best practice;

HOPES that, in the revision of the framework Directive on the ecodesign of energy-using products proposed by the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament in summer 2008, and in the future revision of the Directive on energy labelling, the scope of the two exercises will be homogeneous and that the synergies between the two sets of regulations rules will be further extended, particularly as regards the establishment of criteria for assessing products' energy efficiency, in the interests of greater energy efficiency;

HOPES that the European Union will take an approach involving dynamic rescheduling of product required performance, by constant reference to the most efficient products on the market, in accordance with "top runner" principles, with the ambition of seeing the European energy-saving model become the best-performing in the world by 2020.
