



COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION



## **Council Conclusions on the implementation of the framework Directives on the energy labelling and ecodesign of energy-using products**

*2895th TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY Council meeting  
Luxembourg, 10 Octobre 2008*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"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);

# **P R E S S**

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 take account of all significant environmental impacts of the products during their lifecycle;

That since 2005, under that Directive studies have been launched on a list of priority products identified by the European Climate Change Programme as offering a high potential for cost-effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption, thereby improving security of supply, and an efficient 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 final 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 which the Committee established under the ecodesign Directive voted in July 2008 under the regulatory procedure with scrutiny on the maximum standby and off-mode consumption of electric equipment and in September on public street and tertiary lighting and on set-top boxes, as well as the proposals to be presented to the Committee in October on external power supplies, and then in November on domestic lighting;

INVITES the Commission and the Member States to continue steadily and ambitiously the examination of the products included in its current work programme, in order to enable the adoption of ambitious measures within the mandate of the ecodesign Directive;

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 ;

INVITES the Commission to consider opportunities for small and medium size enterprises to organise relevant assessments of design and production processes;

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, whilst avoiding any risk of disruption of supply to the internal market or loss of functionality from the user perspective and respecting all ecodesign review parameters including cost-effectiveness. In line with these requirements and to that effect, the Commission is invited to submit in 2008 a draft Regulation that will launch a gradual process of phasing out until incandescent lamps and all the worst-performing lights are banned;

INVITES the Commission to complement the ongoing initiatives by swiftly putting in place all the work connected with its working plan for the coming three years on the identified priority product groups and, when appropriate by working closely with the European Committee for Standardisation and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation, on the standardisation mandates for the implementation of specific measures;

TAKES NOTE of the Commission Action Plan on sustainable consumption and production and sustainable industrial policy which aims to reinforce synergies across relevant policy instruments, such as the Community Ecolabel Award Scheme, the ecodesign Directive and the Directive on energy labelling;

UNDERLINES that it is necessary to preserve the operational and practical character of the eco-design directive in order to keep this Directive as an essential element in the EU-legislation capable of delivering step by step practical energy savings and concrete CO<sub>2</sub> abatements in due time before 2020;

RECALLS that it is desirable for certain products that the implementing measures include, subject to a cost-effectiveness evaluation, environmental criteria over and above energy efficiency, concerning for instance water, product life or waste. To that effect, INVITES the Commission to propose implementing measures on the basis of the provisions for both the generic and specific requirements of the Directive, on the basis of the results of the preparatory studies promoted by the Commission on the identified priority product groups;

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 efficiency 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 as regards products covered 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;

UNDERLINES the importance that the revision of the framework Directive on ecodesign brings clarity on the product scope of the directive, avoids overlapping or possible obstacles for the development of the existing EU-legislation aiming at the same range of products and that the technical requirements and administrative procedures that follow from the revision of the directive be co-ordinated with existing legal acts and other ongoing work, in order to ensure a consistent legal framework regarding inter alia the CE-labelling. Furthermore it is important to maintain a good mix of mandatory and voluntary measures, such as the EU Eco-label, in order to make best use of the dynamics of the market;

HOPES that the European Union will take an approach involving dynamic rescheduling of product required performance, by reference to the most efficient products on the market and taking into account the worldwide competitiveness of European industry, with the ambition of seeing the European energy-saving model become the best-performing in the world by 2020;

ENCOURAGES the Commission to take the steps necessary in the current review of the Directive on energy labelling to ensure that the label remains easily recognisable to consumers, simple, concise and efficient so as to ensure that the success of the existing label is retained."

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