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# Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

2012/0048(NLE)

21.6.2012

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# DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

on the draft Council decision on the signing and conclusion of the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the European Union on the coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment

(09890/2012 - C7-0134/2012 - 2012/0048(NLE))

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

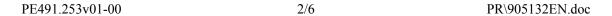
Rapporteur: Béla Kovács

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# Symbols for procedures

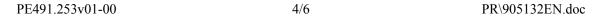
- Consultation procedure
- Consent procedure
  Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)



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#### DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the draft Council decision on the signing and conclusion of the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the European Union on the coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment (09890/2012 – C7-0134/2012 – 2012/0048(NLE))

## (Consent)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Council decision (09890/2012),
- having regard to draft agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the European Union on the coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment (10193/2012),
- having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Articles 194, 207 and Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a), of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C7-0134/2012),
- having regard to Rules 81 and 90(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (A7-0000/2012),
- 1. Consents to conclusion of the agreement;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the United States of America.

#### **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

#### 1.) Introduction

ENERGY STAR is a programme established by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to improve the energy efficiency of office equipment. In 2000, the EU and the US signed an Agreement on the coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment. The Agreement, which was renewed in 2006 for a second 5-year period, provides for the setting up of the ENERGY STAR programme in the EU. Accordingly, the programme has been jointly managed by the EPA and the Commission, including cooperating on the development of product specifications and the mutual recognition of products registered in the EU and the US.

Before the expiry of the Agreement in December 2011, the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate a new Agreement continuing the ENERGY STAR programme for a third period of five years. These negotiations were concluded in November 2011.

### 2.) Commission Proposal

Under the new Agreement, there will be two separate product registration systems in the EU, which maintains self-certification by manufacturers, and the US, which decided to move to third-party certification. Consequently, the principle of mutual recognition will no longer be applicable. Furthermore, provisions regarding the respective responsibilities of the Commission and the Member States in the enforcement of the programme were clarified. There are no other substantial changes as compared with the current text.

With the draft Council Decision this new Agreement would be approved on behalf of the European Union.

## 3.) Rapporteur's assessment

Your Rapporteur welcomes the successful conclusion of negotiations for a new Agreement extending the ENERGY STAR programme, since the programme has been very effective in steering the office equipment market towards greater energy efficiency.

While it is regrettable that the principle of mutual recognition will no longer apply due to the introduction of third-party certification in the US, the Rapporteur considers it preferable to maintain the lighter self-registration procedure in the EU in order to avoid additional costs to manufacturers, in particular SME's. Furthermore, it is noted that the Commission does not expect that the end of mutual recognition will negatively impact manufacturers who participate in the EU programme as they tend to focus almost entirely on the EU market. On the other hand, EU exports to the US would come mainly from large manufacturers who have registered their products already in the past in the US.

In light of the above, your Rapporteur recommends Parliament to consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.

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