



## WHAT ENERGY LABEL FOR EUROPE?

**Environmental NGOs' Contribution** to the Public Hearing of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy of the European Parliament - 30 September 2009

### **1. The Energy Label is an important tool for shifting the European market towards more energy-efficient purchase patterns.**

Purchases of more expensive yet energy-efficient fridges rose from 5% in 1995 to over 35% by 2000, following introduction of the A to G label<sup>1</sup>.

### **2. Greater dynamism is needed within the labelling scheme. Environmental NGOs continue to share the view of consumer organizations that a closed A to G scale with more frequent upgrading is the simplest and most logical solution.**

Previous research<sup>2</sup> has clearly supported this view. Evidence also suggests that the closed A to G scale is the strongest layout for highlighting "bad" products, as well as inspiring purchase of more energy-efficient ones<sup>3</sup>. This is an important role of the energy label, as meeting our environmental objectives will require widespread, rapid innovation and market uptake of more energy-efficient products.

Those who continue to oppose the A to G label on claims of damaged profits and job losses<sup>4</sup> have a responsibility to provide economic evidence to this effect.

### **3. The political deadlock with the labelling question is now standing in the way of progress on the Eco-Design measures.**

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<sup>1</sup> ORG-Gfk Retail Audit, 2002

<sup>2</sup> For example, Heinzle and Wustenhagen: *Consumer Survey on the new format of the European Energy Label for televisions – Comparison of "A-G closed" versus "beyond A" scale format*, University of St Gallen, August 2009

<sup>3</sup> p. 15, idem

<sup>4</sup> "Rescaling existing appliances just one notch downwards could result in a 1.5 billion euro loss to the bottom-line across our industry and put thousands of jobs at risk" – CECED press release 10 February 2009, [http://www.cecled.eu/ICECED/easnet.dll/GetDoc?APPL=1&DAT\\_IM=20CB47](http://www.cecled.eu/ICECED/easnet.dll/GetDoc?APPL=1&DAT_IM=20CB47)

**All parties have an urgent responsibility to find a solution to this impasse – and to continue to engage constructively in the Eco-Design process, whatever the outcome of the labelling discussion.**

Following the European Parliament's adoption of the Podimata report, and rejection of the A-20%, A-40%.... Label for TVs in April 2009, the European Commission has decided to postpone all further votes on Eco-Design implementing measures until agreement has been reached on the label.

This means that the partially-prepared implementing measures on boilers, water heaters and air conditioners cannot be voted by the Comitology Committee until at least March 2010 - even assuming agreement is found on the labelling question by December, as per the Swedish Presidency's timetable. These product categories together consume more than 1500TWh<sup>5</sup> of energy per year and are responsible for over 800Mt of CO2 emissions – figures which could be reduced by more than a quarter by effective eco-design standards.

The environmental NGOS are ready to continue working with all parties – that is, Commission, Member States, MEPs and industry - to find solutions to any outstanding problems, such as the transition period between two labels.

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<sup>5</sup> 2005 stock, final electricity consumption equivalent