

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

22.9.2008

0078/2008

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Linda McAvan, Anne Laperrouze, Claude Turmes and Elisa Ferreira

on reduced VAT levels for energy-efficient household products

Lapse date: 15.1.2009

Written declaration on reduced VAT levels for energy-efficient household products

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the EU has committed itself to a 20% reduction target for energy consumption by 2020,
- B. whereas, according to recent data from the European Environment Agency, energy consumption attributable to household products (e.g. white goods, light bulbs, boilers, heating etc.) accounts for 16% of total consumption in the EU and 10% of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions,
- C. whereas the market prices of the most energy-efficient household products are in certain cases much higher than those of the average product,
- D. whereas consumer research shows that today price ranks first amongst the factors influencing consumer purchasing behaviour,
- E. whereas evidence shows that, if energy-efficient household products are affordable, this encourages consumers to make more sustainable buying decisions,
- F. whereas the Commission's most recent legislative proposal on reduced VAT rates included provisions to enable sustainable energy consumption patterns to be boosted by influencing pricing through reduced VAT levels,
- 1. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to commit themselves to considering reducing levels of VAT on energy-efficient household products when reviewing the Energy Tax Directive (2003/96/EC), in order to contribute to the attainment of the EU's climate change and sustainable consumption goals;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States.