



2017/2087(INI)

22.3.2018

OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

on the implementation of the Ecodesign Directive (2009/125/EC)
(2017/2087(INI))

Rapporteur: Michèle Rivasi

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas ecodesign brings economic benefits for industry and consumers and contributes significantly to the Union's climate, energy and circular economy policies;
- B. whereas the Commission estimates that the Ecodesign Directive, together with the Energy Labelling Regulation, contributes to around half of the energy savings target for 2020, and has even greater potential in the longer term, and that both legal acts should reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports by 23 % for natural gas and 37 % for coal and should also help to achieve our climate goals by reducing CO₂ emissions by 320 million tonnes every year;
- C. whereas the estimated energy savings achieved through the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling framework could also translate into a EUR 490 annual reduction in the energy bills of each household, while generating extra income of EUR 55 billion for industry and the wholesale and retail sectors every year, and the potential creation of 800 000 new direct jobs in those sectors;
- D. whereas ecodesign measures should cover the whole lifecycle of products in order to improve resource efficiency in the Union, taking into account the fact that more than 80 % of a product's environmental impact is determined at the design stage, which therefore plays a highly important role in promoting the circular economy aspects, durability, upgradability, reparability, re-use and recycling of a product;
- E. whereas in addition to making more sustainable and resource-efficient products, the principles of the sharing economy and the service economy need to be strengthened, while Member States should pay special attention to low-income households, including those at risk of energy poverty, when presenting programmes to encourage the uptake of the most resource-efficient products and services;
- F. whereas the Union is a party to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and is therefore required to take action on phasing out those hazardous substances, including by limiting their use at product design stage;
- G. whereas the Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee, along with consumer protection stakeholders, the scientific community and a wide range of civil society organisations, have asked on several occasions for the scope of the Ecodesign Directive to be broadened;
1. Recommends that more consumer products are included within the scope of the Ecodesign Directive (2009/125/EC); emphasises that priority should be given to ICT products, which are sold in large numbers and replaced frequently; stresses that the Commission should carefully assess and evaluate how to improve and verify the sustainability of such product groups, particularly mobiles/smartphones, for which spare parts, batteries and accessories should be easily replaceable and universal;

2. Acknowledges that the technology of ICT products is fast-evolving, which may result in legislation on those products already being outdated by the time it actually comes into force; urges the Commission, therefore, to speed up the ecodesign regulatory processes for ICT products and to look into alternatives, which can be complementary to ecodesign measures, in order to monitor resource efficiency when products are in use, for instance by using big data techniques;
3. Considers that the Ecodesign Directive has been an important tool for the energy efficiency of products and believes that future coordination with initiatives connected to the circular economy could further enhance energy efficiency; calls therefore for an ambitious plan concerning ecodesign and the circular economy, which would provide both environmental benefits and a unique opportunity for job development;
4. Stresses the need to gradually adopt measurable and enforceable product requirements which are fully harmonised at Union level, in order to preserve the functioning of the internal market, to support innovation, research and the competitiveness of European manufacturers, and to ensure fair competition, without creating an unnecessary administrative burden;
5. Calls for the ecodesign criteria to be broadened in order to include resource efficiency, the circular economy and the health aspects of products; considers it necessary to combine resource efficiency and the circularity of materials with continuous energy savings, taking into account the historical improvement rate for setting new requirements; stresses that energy, particularly renewable energy, should be considered a key resource and that products should be optimised for energy and water consumption and material use from a lifecycle perspective; believes that durability, upgradability, reparability and recyclability can also support job development;
6. Stresses the need to introduce ethical criteria linked, in particular, to the origin and extraction of the materials used, as well as to the social conditions of workers and local populations;
7. Regrets that little progress has been made in including circular economy aspects in the review of existing product-specific measures and new product groups; notes that, despite the promising specific attention given to circular economy aspects in the Ecodesign Working Plan 2016-2019, the Commission's circular economy package and the importance of this topic, the work on this matter has been disappointing; urges the Commission, therefore, to speed up actions to ensure that the Ecodesign Directive makes a significant contribution to the circular economy;
8. Stresses the need for:
 - (a) upgradability to be promoted through the availability of software updates for electronic devices,
 - (b) reparability to be facilitated by the availability of spare parts throughout the life-cycle of a product at a reasonable price in relation to the total cost of the product,
 - (c) recyclability to be enhanced by using single or compatible plastic polymers;

9. Stresses that, aside from ensuring recyclability, the actual use of recycled materials should also be promoted; considers that, on the one hand, the recyclability and easy dismantling of products needs to be incorporated into the design phase so that end-of-life products may be converted into high-quality secondary raw materials, and, on the other hand, the actual reuse of these secondary raw materials in new products needs to be promoted and endorsed, for example by setting a compulsory minimal usage of recycled materials for new products;
10. Stresses that, in order to ensure the use of recycled/secondary materials, the availability of high-quality secondary materials is imperative, and a well-organised market for secondary materials should therefore be established;
11. Stresses the importance of attributing responsibility to producers and expanding guarantee periods and conditions, of obliging manufacturers/sellers to take responsibility for the entire lifecycle of a product, of boosting reparability, upgradability, modularity and recyclability and of ensuring that raw materials and waste management remain within the European Union;
12. Stresses that the use of materials and substances of critical importance, such as rare earth elements (REE), or substances of a toxic nature or of concern, such as persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and endocrine disrupters, must be specifically considered under the broadened ecodesign criteria in order to restrict their use or at least to ensure the possibility of extracting/separating them at end-of-life;
13. Stresses the need to optimise and safeguard the decision-making process; emphasises that ecodesign measures should be adopted individually within established and communicated deadlines, and should be promptly implemented; calls on the Commission to set aside the necessary resources for implementation;
14. Insists on the need to optimise the market surveillance of products placed on the market, through better cooperation between the Commission and the Member States and among the Member States themselves; recommends the organisation of EU-wide coordination, run by the Commission, between national market surveillance authorities;
15. Stresses that test protocols should be closer to real-life conditions, i.e. products should be tested under conditions and in environments that simulate as close as possible those of the average consumer; calls for the testing methods of both suppliers and market surveillance authorities to be established and executed in such a way that any intentional or unintentional manipulation or amelioration of test results is detected and eliminated, and for the permitted deviations between tested and declared results to be limited to the statistical margin of error of the measurement equipment;
16. Highlights the Commission's estimates that 10-25 % of products on the market do not comply with ecodesign and energy labelling requirements, which amounts to around 10 % of the envisaged savings being lost; urges better monitoring of compliance; highlights the great potential of fast screening methods in detecting the products and types of products that are more likely not to comply with the Ecodesign Directive;
17. Calls for greater coherence and synergy with other sector-specific legislation and European tools, including the criteria for responsible public procurement, the Ecolabel and

the joint use of the product registration database established by Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 setting a framework for energy labelling;

18. Calls for proper funding so that the Union and the Member States can ensure adequate monitoring of policy development, undertake market surveillance, create new business opportunities, consult at national level before Member States vote on implementing measures and design proactive communication strategies; calls on the Commission to communicate proactively to European citizens the benefits of ecodesign measures as an integral part of the process of adopting those measures;
19. Calls on the EU institutions and the Member States to set the right example by establishing and making full use of the circular economy and the Green Public Procurement strategies (GPP) in order to prioritise proven sustainable products, such as Ecolabel products, and the highest resource efficiency standards in all investments, and to promote a widespread use of green procurement, including in the private sector.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	21.3.2018
Result of final vote	+: 58 -: 3 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Zigmantas Balčytis, Bendt Bendtsen, Xabier Benito Ziluaga, José Blanco López, Jonathan Bullock, Cristian-Silviu Buşoi, Reinhard Bütikofer, Jerzy Buzek, Angelo Ciocca, Edward Czesak, Jakop Dalunde, Pilar del Castillo Vera, Ashley Fox, Adam Gierek, Theresa Griffin, Rebecca Harms, Hans-Olaf Henkel, Eva Kaili, Kaja Kallas, Krišjānis Kariņš, Seán Kelly, Jeppe Kofod, Jaromír Kohlíček, Peter Kouroumbashev, Zdzisław Krasnodębski, Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, Christelle Lechevalier, Janusz Lewandowski, Paloma López Bermejo, Edouard Martin, Angelika Mlinar, Nadine Morano, Dan Nica, Angelika Niebler, Morten Helveg Petersen, Miroslav Poche, Julia Reda, Paul Rübig, Massimiliano Salini, Algirdas Saudargas, Sven Schulze, Neoklis Sylikiotis, Dario Tamburrano, Patrizia Toia, Evžen Tošenovský, Claude Turmes, Vladimir Urutchev, Kathleen Van Brempt, Henna Virkkunen, Martina Werner, Hermann Winkler, Anna Záborská, Flavio Zanonato, Carlos Zorrinho
Substitutes present for the final vote	Jakop Dalunde, Luděk Niedermayer, Dennis Radtke, Dominique Riquet, Pavel Telička
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Gerolf Annemans, Rosa D'Amato, Emilian Pavel

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

58	+
ALDE	Kaja Kallas, Angelika Mlinar, Morten Helveg Petersen, Dominique Riquet, Pavel Telička
ECR	Edward Czesak, Ashley Fox, Hans-Olaf Henkel, Zdzisław Krasnodębski, Evžen Tošenovský
EFDD	Rosa D'Amato, Dario Tamburrano
ENF	Christelle Lechevalier
GUE/NGL	Xabier Benito Ziluaga, Jaromír Kohlíček, Paloma López Bermejo, Neoklis Sylikiotis
PPE	Bendt Bendtsen, Cristian-Silviu Buşoi, Jerzy Buzek, Pilar del Castillo Vera, Gunnar Hökmark, Krišjānis Kariņš, Seán Kelly, Janusz Lewandowski, Nadine Morano, Angelika Niebler, Luděk Niedermayer, Dennis Radtke, Paul Rübig, Massimiliano Salini, Algirdas Saudargas, Sven Schulze, Vladimir Urutchev, Henna Virkkunen, Anna Záborská
S&D	Zigmantas Balčytis, José Blanco López, Adam Gierek, Theresa Griffin, Eva Kaili, Jeppe Kofod, Peter Kouroumbashev, Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, Edouard Martin, Dan Nica, Emilian Pavel, Miroslav Poche, Patrizia Toia, Kathleen Van Brempt, Martina Werner, Flavio Zanonato, Carlos Zorrinho
VERTS/ALE	Reinhard Bütikofer, Jakop Dalunde, Rebecca Harms, Julia Reda, Claude Turmes

3	-
EFDD	Jonathan Bullock
ENF	Angelo Ciocca
PPE	Hermann Winkler

1	0
ENF	Gerolf Annemans

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention