

PRESS RELEASE

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## **Downgrading the energy label to A-G misses the energy efficiency target**

EHI, EPEE and Lighting Europe fully support the European Commission's goal of increasing energy efficiency in Europe by encouraging consumers to make more energy-efficient purchase choices. However, we caution that the proposed new *Energy Labelling Regulation* unveiled today could have, in a number of cases, the opposite effect by slowing down the uptake of energy efficient appliances.

For new space and water heaters, which are the products with the highest potential for energy saving, the proposal will downgrade technologies from, say, class "A" to class "E" on the energy label. And this would be the case also for other extremely efficient appliances, such as LED lamps and LED lighting systems. But who would invest in an "E-class" product?

This technology downgrading, coupled with the complexity of the revision process, would create confusion and make Europe waste precious time in its quest to reduce energy consumption by 2030.

Today's proposal for a review of the Energy Labelling Directive intends to solve a problem that exists only for few products. Indeed some product categories, like washing machines or refrigerators, need a revision as the energy label top classes are getting saturated due to technological development and innovation. However, a problem for one or two products should not prevent a well-designed system from unleashing its potential for energy efficiency. The current Framework legislation already offers a solution for that: changing the product specific regulations.

*"Europe should not miss its energy efficiency target. The potential for energy saving in the heating sector is huge, as space and water heating account for 85% of the energy consumption in a building. The label should help modernize the inefficient stock by fostering the market uptake of extremely efficient technologies,"* **said Federica Sabbati, Secretary General of the European Heating Industry.**

*"By giving consumers one reason less to invest in new and more efficient LED lighting products, the new energy labelling regulation risks to miss the energy efficiency train and even hurt the European lighting industry, at a time where there is a great need for jobs and growth,"* **said Diederik de Stoppelaar, Secretary General of LightingEurope.**

*"The review of the Energy Labelling Directive could prove to be counter-productive by confusing consumers and creating more red tape. In line with the Better Regulation principle, we call on decision-makers to preserve the effectiveness of the Energy Label by ensuring it helps consumers choose energy-efficient products and provides incentives for industry to invest in those products,"* **said Andrea Voigt, Director General of the European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE).**



**EHI, the Association of the European Heating Industry**, represents 90% of the European market for heat and hot water generation, heating controls and heat emitters, 80% of biomass central heating, as well as more than 70% of the hydronic heat pump and solar thermal markets. Our Members are the market leaders in the production of energy efficient and renewable energy technologies to affordably heat buildings. In doing so, they employ directly more than 120.000 people in Europe and invest more than half a billion euro a year in research and innovation.

**The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE)** represents the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump industry in Europe. Founded in the year 2000, EPEE's membership is composed of 40 member companies, national and international associations.

EPEE member companies realize a turnover of over 30 billion Euros, employ more than 200,000 people in Europe and also create indirect employment through a vast network of small and medium-sized enterprises such as contractors who install, service and maintain equipment.

EPEE member companies have manufacturing sites and research and development facilities across the EU, which innovate for the global market.

As an expert association, EPEE is supporting safe, environmentally and economically viable technologies with the objective of promoting a better understanding of the sector in the EU and contributing to the development of effective European policies. Please see our website ([www.epeeglobal.org](http://www.epeeglobal.org)) for further information.

**LightingEurope** is an industry association of 31 European lighting manufacturers, national associations, and companies producing materials. LightingEurope members represent over 1,000 European companies, a majority of which are SMEs ; a total workforce of over 100,000 people in Europe ; and an annual turnover estimated to exceed 20 billion euros. LightingEurope is dedicated to promoting efficient lighting practices for the benefit of the global environment, human comfort, and the health and safety of consumers.