



EUROPEAN COMMISSION - PRESS RELEASE

Energy efficiency: Slovenian legislation still not in line with EU ecodesign rules

Brussels, 24 November 2011 - All energy using products have an impact on the environment during their life - spanning all phases from creation to disposal cycle, notably in terms of their greenhouse gas emissions. More than 80% of the environmental impact of a product is determined at the design stage. Thanks to EU ecodesign rules the least efficient devices are progressively being banned from the EU market and replaced by more innovative products with equal or better functionalities and good environmental performance. Despite a letter of formal notice sent on 27 January 2011, the Republic of Slovenia has not yet informed the Commission of the full transposition of the Ecodesign Directive into its national legislation. Therefore the Commission has today decided to send a reasoned opinion to the Republic of Slovenia to bring its national legislation in line with EU rules. If this Member State does not comply with its legal obligation within two months, the Commission may refer it to the Court of Justice.

With its 2009 recast, the scope of the Ecodesign directive [2009/125/EC](#) was extended from 'energy using' to 'energy-related' products, taking also into account products, such as windows, which do not use energy directly, but have a major impact on the electricity consumption. Preliminary examination of the measures implemented so far by the Republic of Slovenia shows that the new scope of application of the Ecodesign directive does not yet appear in national law. In fact, the definition of "energy-using products" should be adapted to the wider scope of "energy-related products".

Background

The EU has committed itself to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20% as compared to 1990 levels and to reduce by 20% our energy consumption through improved energy efficiency by 2020. The ecodesign process is key in reaching these objectives.

The ecodesign process implies taking into account all the environmental impacts of a product right from the earliest stage of design. This especially avoids unintended effects of product planning. Requirements for each product are defined in specific implementing measures adopted by the Commission.

It is estimated that only with the measures put in place so far under the former Ecodesign directive [2005/32/EC](#) (covering lighting, televisions, electric motors, washing machines etc.) around 400 Terawatt hours per year could be saved by 2020, an amount which corresponds to the electricity consumption of France.

Further information

The Directive on Ecodesign can be consulted [here](#).

Commission web page on Ecodesign:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/ecodesign/eco_design_en.htm

Some concise information on the stages of an infringement procedure is available [here](#).

Current figures on infringements in general can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/eu_law/infringements/infringements_en.htm

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