

## **Proposed revision of the Energy Label Directive is detrimental to distributors, industry and consumers**

EuroCommerce is disappointed by the European Commission's approach to the proposed revision of the energy label framework directive. EuroCommerce supports a change in the scale, but not the cumbersome procedure the Commission has chosen.

The European Commission has decided to revise the framework directive so as to revert to the original A-G scale of labelling. Initially, the top two categories, A and B, will remain empty, with best performing appliances being labelled C. Consumers will be confused and likely to perceive new products as less efficient than the ones they currently own.

EuroCommerce Director-General Christian Verschueren said: *"We are in favour of clear energy labelling and resolving the present "inflation" in efficiency ratings. But the approach chosen is very disappointing – it will act as a deterrent to consumers buying energy-efficient equipment and will increase burdens for all in the supply chain, which is not compatible with the Commission's very positive approach to better regulation."*

The European Commission's proposal, if and when enacted, will require distributors to relabel products and hence take over manufacturers' responsibilities. Christian Verschueren added: "These requirements are not in line with other EU legislation, such as product safety, which forbids any relabelling of products by distributors. They are likely to be burdensome and expensive for retailers, who may also be held responsible for potential mislabelling. Finally, consumers will be put off from buying more energy efficient appliances."

EuroCommerce considers a complete review of the framework directive unnecessary, as existing delegated acts already allow a return to the A-G scale. Reviewing the framework directive will result in a lengthy legislative process without contributing to meeting the EU 2030 energy targets.

~ENDS~

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## **EuroCommerce and the commerce sector**

EuroCommerce is the principal organisation representing the retail and wholesale sector. It embraces 5.4 million companies, both leading multinational retailers such as Carrefour, IKEA, Tesco and REWE and many small family operations. Retail and wholesale provide a link between producers and 500 million European consumers over a billion times a day. It generates 1 in 7 jobs, providing a varied career for 29 million Europeans, many of them young people. It also supports millions of further jobs throughout the supply chain, from small local suppliers to international businesses.

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