

Brussels, 17 October 2008

Member States endorse Commission proposal to improve the energy performance of external power supplies

At the meeting of the Ecodesign Regulatory Committee today, EU Member States endorsed the European Commission's proposal for a regulation aimed at improving the energy performance of external power supplies. The regulation is expected to cut the EU's electricity consumption of these devices by 30% by 2020, compared to a "business as usual" scenario.

"This fourth measure¹ under the Ecodesign Directive² will drastically improve the energy performance of external power supplies, which everybody is using together with many household and office products. It is a concrete contribution to reach the EU's energy efficiency and climate protection targets, while saving citizens' money", said Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs.

An external power supply (EPS) is the device that converts power input from the mains power source into lower voltage output for household and office products such as mobile and cordless phones, notebook computers, modems etc. With the energy efficiency standards approved today, the electricity losses related to external power supplies will be reduced in the EU by 9 TWh, that is approximately 30%, by 2020, compared to a "business as usual" scenario. The savings are equal to Lithuania's yearly electricity consumption and would lead to approximately 3.2 Mt CO₂ emission savings per year. Further savings are expected in other parts of the world as well as an indirect impact of this measure, since external power supplies are sold and used worldwide.

This approach allows manufacturers to adapt their products to the new requirements in time. The regulation builds on the results of an in-depth analysis of the technical, economic and environmental aspects of external power supplies that was carried out together with stakeholders and experts from around the world.

The regulation will now be scrutinised by the European Parliament. It is scheduled for formal adoption by the Commission in the beginning of 2009. Eco-design measures on other product groups will follow in the coming months.

Further information on Ecodesign is available [here](#).

¹ Ecodesign measures on standby power consumption, simple set-top boxes and tertiary sector lighting have recently been endorsed by the Ecodesign Regulatory Committee

² *Directive 2005/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2005 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-using products and amending Council Directive 92/42/EEC and Directives 96/57/EC and 2000/55/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Official Journal L 191, 22/07/2005, P. 0029 - 0058*