

Ecodesign & Energy Labelling: Cornerstones of EU Energy & Climate Policy. INFORSE - Coolproducts event at EU Sustainable Energy Week, - EUSEW'13, June 27, 2013

## Summary of Panel on Visions of the Future of Ecodesign and Energy Labelling

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Summary of the open panel discussion on 27/6-13 at noon.

Energy label format. There was a general agreement among the speakers that the label format should make gradually higher energy efficiency visible to the consumers, and that the current label is not sufficient. The participants did not go into details on how a new label could look like, but there seemed to be a willingness to discuss how to compromise between the wish for a stable label and the wish to update the label with the improvements of products.

The use of the least life-cycle cost (LLC) was discussed and several speakers proposed solutions to overcome the problem that technical development make regulation to phase out products with less efficiency than LLC too weak<sup>1</sup>. One proposal was to use forward looking analysis proposed in the presentation by Edouard Toulouse (ECOS) before the panel. Another proposal was to have costs below the (higher) base case life-cycle costs instead of always below the LLC. This would give regulators a freedom to require more efficient products than the LLC products analysed in the preparation of the regulation. There was also a word of caution: thorough statistical analysis are needed of the markets to firmly conclude that there are products on the markets with lower LLC and higher efficiency than the ones identified for the Ecodesign regulations.

Absolute consumption versus energy efficiency was also a topic for discussion were several speakers advocated for moving to reducing absolute consumption rather than energy efficiency. The reason for this is the tendency that savings from moving to more efficient products are "eaten" by a move towards larger products. This is both an issue for Ecodesign and energy labelling. Proposals included regulation to set limits and labels according to absolute consumption, and to use a curve for energy efficiency requirements, where larger products are required to be more energy efficient than smaller ones. The formula for the curve would vary from product to product.

Lifespan and durability was discussed, as material consumption also depends on lifespan. As products become more energy efficient in use, the production and end-of-life phase impacts of the products becomes more important. All speakers were in favour of including lifespan in Ecodesign regulation.

System approach has been used for Ecodesign of some products (circulator pumps was mentioned), and generally speakers agreed that there are potentials for use of system approaches to save energy in several other products groups. Products that can react to system needs can reduce annual energy consumption. One product group mentioned, where a system approach could be introduced in Ecodesign, is lighting.

Some speakers proposed to reduce exemptions and allowances in the regulation, to simplify the regulation and also because these exemptions and allowances are not always well justified.

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<sup>1</sup> Once the regulation is in place the LLC products is much more efficient than expected

Other issues than energy. Several speakers mentioned that there is a good potential to move beyond energy and use for Ecodesign and maybe also energy labelling. This is not just a question of non-energy using products (where possible use of Ecodesign will be evaluated). For energy-using products, other aspects than energy during use are becoming more important as the products become more energy efficient. Some speakers cautioned that other regulations are already in place for a number of other issues, such as chemical contents. It was also mentioned that the inclusion of other issues than energy can make the process more complex and slower.

Voluntary agreements (VAs) were mentioned by some speakers that referred to experience showing that VAs are inefficient compared to Ecodesign regulation and concluded that VAs should be used less in the future.

Globalisation was mentioned by some speakers, and there was a general agreement that increased global cooperation and exchange of information of product regulation should be welcomed, both because of a globalised market and because of the global environmental problems.

The need for improved market surveillance was mentioned by some speakers, and there was a call for improved European cooperation on this, as national market surveillance is not always adequate. Proposals included mandatory registration of products in EU-level and a European complaints procedure for products, receiving complaints when products do not follow Ecodesign and energy labelling requirements.

The Ecodesign Process was mentioned by some speakers as a good, inclusive process that fosters dialogues between industry, European Commission, national authorities, and NGOs. It was also mentioned that the process to regulate some products have been too lengthy.

Panel participants:

- Ines Oehme – UBA, Germany
- Hans Paul Siderius - Dutch Agency for Sustainability & Innovation
- Mike Walker - Defra, UK
- Lars Stuehlen - Lighting Europe
- Denis Bonvillain - EPEE
- Angeliki Malizou - BEUC/ANEC
- Edouard Toulouse – ECOS & Coolproducts Campaign

Panel chaired Gunnar Boye Olesen –INFORSE-Europe and Coolproducts Campaign.

The above summary is made by the chair to reflect the discussion, and it is the sole responsibility of the chair.

More information about programme and presentations at  
[http://www.inforse.org/europe/conf\\_EUSEW13\\_27\\_06.htm](http://www.inforse.org/europe/conf_EUSEW13_27_06.htm)