Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

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PRESS RELEASE

ECO-DESIGN REQUIREMENTS ON PRODUCTS WHICH USE ENERGY

The Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee (MEUSAC) and the Malta Standards Authority, in collaboration with the Malta Business Bureau, teamed up to organise a briefing session for stakeholders along the supply and retail chain, as well as consumers, on recent developments relating to eco-design, the discussions currently taking place at EU level and developments to be expected in the near future.

Eco-design for products is a recent addition to EU-wide initiatives for better energy efficiency on this front. Dr Gabriella Pace, Head of MEUSAC's Information Unit, said that the European Commission, is currently working on eco requirements in the design of a wide range of products ranging from common household goods to office equipment and even street lighting. "The European Commission", Dr Pace continued, "wants to ensure that products are from the initial stage designed to be efficient in terms of energy consumption."

In 2005, the Council and the European Parliament adopted a Directive establishing a framework for eco-design requirements on products which utilise energy. This Directive is now being recast into a comprehensive Ecodesign Framework Directive.

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Dr Pace said that it is with great pleasure that MEUSAC has teamed up with MBB and MSA for the organization of this session for benefit of business community. She also also announced that a similar session on construction products is scheduled for the 25th November.

When addressing participants at today's briefing session, Ing. Joseph Micallef from the Regulatory Affairs Directorate within the Malta Standards Authority, stated that these requirements are applicable to both domestic and business sectors, and that manufacturers, importers of products originating in third countries and retailers, will all have to carry their fair share of responsibilities, in view of the eco-design requirements being proposed by the European Commission.

Ing. Micallef gave participants an extensive overview of the European Commission proposals, delving in depth on how implementing measures are developed, while highlighting the current and expected developments. He reiterated that minimum requirements for the placing of products on the market of products will have to be met. It provides the ground work for setting the energy label rankings.

The energy-efficient requirements for **standby and off mode electric power consumption of electrical and electronic household and office equipment**, **simple set top boxes** (for converting free to air digital broadcast signals to analogue broadcast signals suitable for television or radio), **tertiary lighting** (such as fluorescent lamps, high intensity discharge lamps, lamps manufactured for use in office lighting and lamps manufactured for use in public street lighting), and **external power supplies** were presented to participants.

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The **standby and off mode electric power consumption of electrical and electronic household and office equipment** includes:

- Household appliances intended for washing clothes, washing dishes, cooking and processing food.
- Appliances for hair cutting, hair drying, tooth brushing, shaving, massage and other body care appliances
- Scales
- Information Technology equipment intended primarily for use in the domestic environment.
- Equipment for the purpose of recording or reproducing sound or images, including signals or other technologies for the distribution of sound and image other than by telecommunications. For example radio sets, TV's, video recorders and video cameras.
- Toys (for example electric trains and hand held video sets).
- Sports equipment with electric or electronic components.

Ing. Micallef also explained the relationship between what is being proposed and the Energy Labelling directive. The energy label is viewed as a success story with many consumers choosing to buy energy-efficient appliances classified according to this label. Ing. Micallef said that the new proposal will set the framework for the enactment of implementing measures as regards energy labelling and will also see the introduction of energy labels for the classification of television sets and water heaters.

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The proposal for the recast Directive is currently being discussed by the Standing Committee. Once the text is agreed upon by the Standing Committee, it will be sent to the European Parliament and the Council of Ministersfor scrutiny. It is estimated that the proposal will be adopted by mid-2009 and that such eco-requirements for products highlighted are expected to be enacted within the next two to three years.

MEUSAC – 05.11.2008

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STQARRIJA GĦALL-ISTAMPA

REKWIŻITI GĦALL-EKODISINN GĦAL PRODOTTI LI JIKKONSUMAW L-ENERĠIJA

Il-*Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee* (MEUSAC) flimkien mal-Awtorità Maltija tal-i*Standards*, b' kollaborazzjoni mal-*Malta Business Bureau*, illum organizza sessjoni ta' informazzjoni dwar żviluppi reċenti relatati mal-ekodisinn għall-prodotti li jikkonsumaw l-enerġija, għall-manifatturi u importaturi, kif ukoll għall-konsumaturi.

Dan huwa kunċett ġdid li qed tintroduċi l-Unjoni Ewropea u huwa inizjattiva oħra biex dawn il-prodotti jkunu aktar effiċjenti fl-użu ta' l-enerġija. Dr Gabriella Pace, il-Kap tat-Taqsima tal-Informazzjoni tal-MEUSAC, qalet li l-Kummissjoni Ewropea qegħda taħdem biex prodotti ġodda li jkunu se jiġu ntrodotti fis-suq ikunu disinjati b' mod li jħarsu l-ambjent. Dawn il-prodotti jvarjaw minn dawk li jintużaw għall-konsum domestiku għal dawk li jintużaw f' uffiċċji jew biex idawlu t-toroq. "Il-Kummissjoni Ewropea", spjegat Dr Pace, "trid tiżgura li prodotti li jaħdmu bid-dawl, sa mill-ewwel fażi tal-produzzjoni tagħhom, ikunu ddisinjati biex jikkonsumaw inqas enerġija u għalhekk ikunu aktar effiċjenti".

Waqt is-sessjoni ta' informazzjoni kien spjegat lill-parteċipanti x' qed tipproponi l-Kummissjoni Ewropea, x' qed jiġi diskuss fuq livell Ewropew kif ukoll liema żviluppi huma mistennija fil-futur qarib. Fl-2005, il-Kunsill tal-Ministri u l-Parlament Ewropew qablu dwar Direttiva bħala qafas li jistabilixxi rekwiżiti għall-ekodisinn għal prodotti li jużaw l-enerġija. Din id-Direttiva

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qegħda tiġi riveduta permezz ta' dak li qed jiġi propost mill-Kummissjoni fejn, fost oħrajn, dawn il-prodotti jridu jħarsu l-ambjent u jtaffu l-effetti tal-bidla fil-klima. Huwa maħsub li fi tmiem dan il-proċess l-iSstati Membri jkunu qegħdin iħaddnu Direttiva dwar l-Ekodisinn.

Dr Pace qalet li huwa ta' sodisfazzjon li l-MEUSAC ħadem flimkien mal-MBB u l-MSA biex ikun jista' jorganizza din is-sessjoni ta' informazzjoni għall-benefiċċju tas-settur privat. Hija qalet li inizjattiva oħra bħal ta' llum se tkun organizzata fil-25 ta' Novembru. Din is-sessjoni se tiffoka fuq żviluppi fil-qasam tal- prodotti tal-kostruzzjoni.

L-Inġ. Joseph Micallef, mir-*Regulatory Affairs Directorate* fi ħdan l-Awtorità Maltija tal-i*Standards*, ta spjegazzjoni dwar dak li qed tipproponi l-Kummissjoni Ewropea. Hu qal li dawn il-kriterji proposti mill-Kummissjoni Ewropea se japplikaw kemm għas-settur domestiku kif ukoll għall-intrapriża. Huwa saħaq li kemm il-produtturi, kif ukoll l-importaturi ta' prodotti minn pajjiżi terzi u n-negozjanti għandhom ikunu responsabbli f' dak li jipproduċu u jbiegħu, sabiex ikunu konformi ma' dak li qed tipproponi l-Kummissjoni Ewropea.

Bit-tfassil ta' qafas wieħed għall-ekodisinn tal-prodotti li jużaw l-enerġija, l-Inġ. Micallef qal li tkun żgurata l-effiċjenza u l-konsistenza bl-użu ta' metodoloġija komuni għall-istabbiliment tar-rekwiżiti għal prodotti bħal dawn, u saħaq li biex prodott jitpoġġa fis-suq irid ikun konformi mar-rekwiżiti proposti. Din id-Direttiva se tippermetti li jiġu stabbiliti punti ta' riferiment għall-prestazzjoni ambjentali ta' dawn it-tip ta' prodotti.

L-Inġ. Micallef spjega fid-dettal ir-rekwiżiti li magħhom iridu jkunu konformi l-kategoriji hawn taħt imsemmija:

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- ***Standby and off mode electric power consumption of electrical and electronic household and office equipment*** (jiġifieri l-konsum tad-dawl ta' prodotti bħal *appliances*, fosthom magni tal-ħasil tal-ħwejjeġ u tal-platti, friġġijiet u frijżers domestiċi, settijiet tar-radju u tat-televiżjoni; u prodotti li jkunu fuq *stand-by* bħal per eżempju kompjuters; kif ukoll ġugarelli li jaħdmu bid-dawl; u apparat li jintuża fl-isports;
- ***Simple set top boxes*** (kaxxi li ma jeħdux kard għat-televiżjoni u r-radju diġitali);
- ***Tertiary lighting*** (dwal għall-uffiċċji u t-toroq); u
- ***External power supplies***.

L-Inġ. Micallef spjega r-relazzjoni bejn dak li qed jiġi propost u l-*Energy Labelling Directive*. Ħafna konsumaturi żgur li jagħżlu prodotti li jkollhom tikketta li turi li jikkonsumaw inqas enerġija minn prodotti oħra. Huwa qal li l-proposta se toħloq qafas għall-implimentazzjoni ta' miżuri fir-rigward ta' tikketti għall-prodotti relatati mal-enerġija, u se jkunu introdotti wkoll tikketti ġodda għal prodotti bħal ma huma s-settijiet tat-televixin u apparat li jsaħħan l-ilma.

Il-proposta għar-riformolazzjoni tad-Direttiva qegħda tiġi diskussa fi ħdan l-i*Standing Committee*. Ladarba jintlaħaq qbil fuqha, din tgħaddi għall-iskrutinju tal-Parlament Ewropew u l-Kunsill tal-Ministri. Huwa maħsub li l-proposta tiġi addottat sa nofs is-sena d-dieħla, waqt li huwa mistenni li dawn ir-rekwiżiti jkunu implimentati sa tliet snin oħra..

MEUSAC – 05.11.2008

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