



Institute for European  
Environmental Policy

# Energy Efficiency Policy in the EU: A summary of Recent and Future Developments

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- 5 pillars of EU energy efficiency policy
- The Energy Efficiency Action Plan
- Ecodesign directive – recast
- Ecolabelling directive – recast
- Energy efficiency in buildings directive –recast
- Looking ahead
- The importance of comitology
- Some case studies on the use of comitology

# The five pillars of EU EE policy



1. **General policy framework:** the Action Plan for Energy Efficiency (EEAP);
2. The **National Energy Efficiency Action Plans** based on the framework Directive on end-use efficiency and energy services (ESD);
3. **Directives on most important consumption sector - buildings – and energy consuming products;**
4. Flanking policy instruments such as **targeted financing, provision of information and networks;**
5. **International collaboration** on energy efficiency.

# The Energy Efficiency Action Plan (EEAP) (2007-2012)



- Outlines plan of legislative actions and initiatives to achieve:
- o 20% reduction of primary energy consumption by 2020;
  - o - CO<sub>2</sub> 780Mtonnes; double the 2012 EU Kyoto target.
  - Over 70 proposed measures targeting buildings, transport and products.
  - Needs Commission's follow up and MS implementation
  - Not sufficient: about 13% primary energy consumption reductions by 2020

## **What can the EP do:**

- ✓ **Can call the EC to action via non legislative resolutions**
- ✓ **Ask explanations if EC does not follow up**
- ✓ **MEPs can ask questions to Energy Commissioner**
- ✓ **Follow up with amendments in codecision**

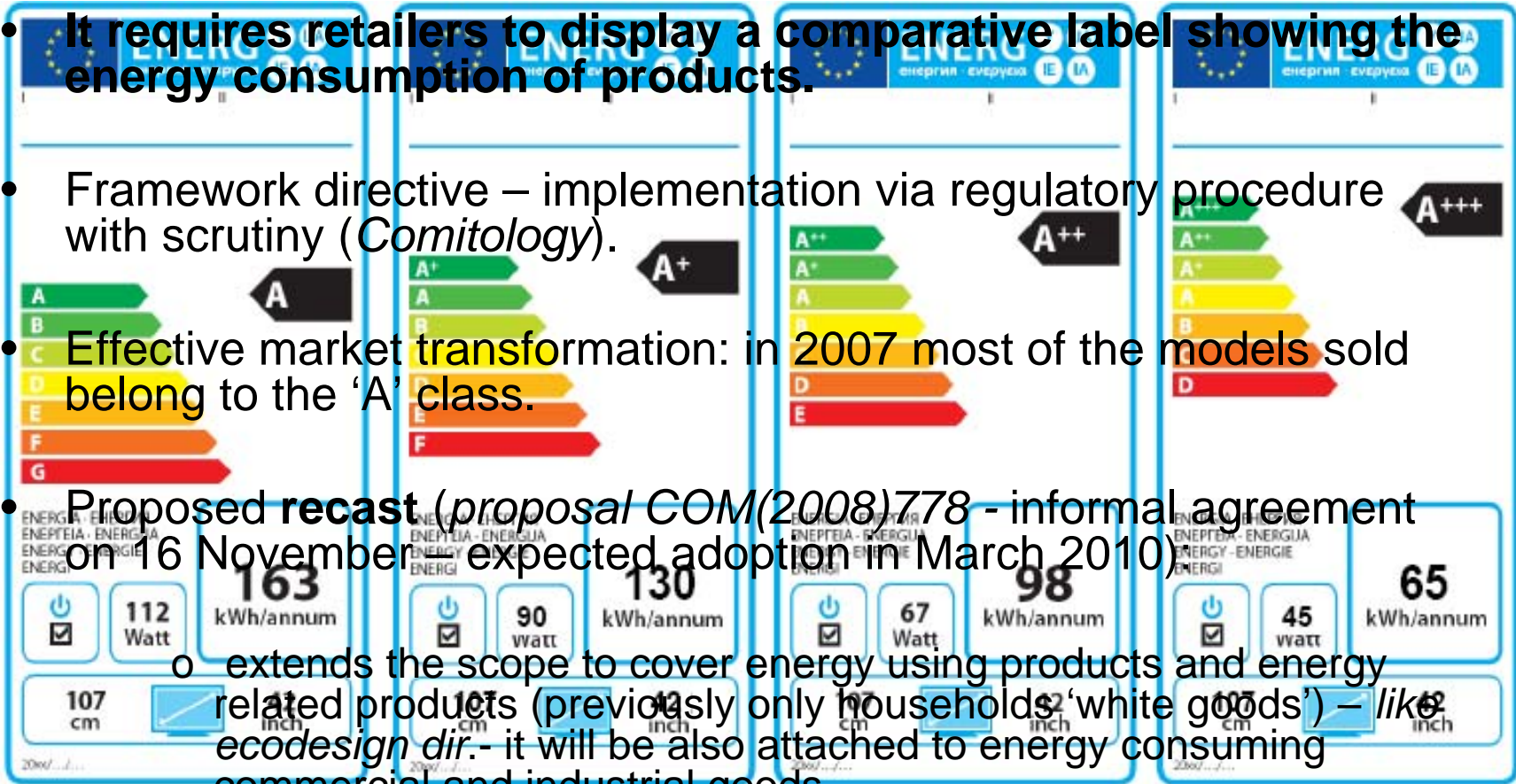


- Establishes **harmonised mandatory performance standards for the life cycle of *energy related products*** ( e.g. windows, construction materials, shower heads) and ensures free movement of products.
- Framework directive – **implementation via regulatory procedure with scrutiny** (*Comitology*).
- 9 ecodesign regulations so far adopted (e.g. standby; simple set-top boxes; lamps and ballasts; industrial motors; TVs) = **savings 315 TWh/year by 2020 = annual electricity consumption of Italy.**

# The Energy labelling directive (*dir.* 92/75/EEC)



- It requires retailers to display a comparative label showing the energy consumption of products.
- Framework directive – implementation via regulatory procedure with scrutiny (*Comitology*).
- Effective market transformation: in 2007 most of the models sold belong to the 'A' class.
- Proposed recast (*proposal COM(2008)778 - informal agreement on 16 November - expected adoption in March 2010*)
  - o extends the scope to cover energy using products and energy related products (previously only households 'white goods') – *like ecodesign dir.* – it will be also attached to energy consuming commercial and industrial goods.
  - o requirement for regular reviews (EP amendment)



# The EPBD (*dir. 2002/91/EC*)



- Buildings represent around 40% of EU energy consumption, 30% energy saving potential by 2020.
- Recast proposal (*COM (2008) 780*) (on 18 November 2009 final political agreement) – main points:
  - 31 December 2020 - **all new buildings** in the EU will have to consume ‘**nearly zero energy**’ (2018 for public buildings).
  - June 2013 **minimum energy requirements** will apply to **building components** (e.g. roofs, windows), as well as building envelope **when major renovation + all buildings**.
  - Harmonized methodology for minimum energy performance requirements to cost-optimal level (under **comitology**).
  - Energy Performance Certificate - only obligatory for some public buildings. This is actually weaker than the existing EPBD.



# What next?



- A **revised energy efficiency action plan**, based on the review of progress on the 2006 plan: *mandatory target? M&V primary energy consumption savings method?*
- **ESD** revision in 2010
- Review of the **ecodesign Directive** is foreseen in 2012: *expansion to all products – resource efficiency?*
- **Energy taxation** proposal expected in 2010
- **Ecodesign implementation**: mandatory standards for heating and cooling appliances:
  - = half of the energy saving potential of the whole directive.
  - EC vote in March 2010 – sent to EP in July 2010
- **Energy labelling directive** implementation





- **Increase EP influence in comitology:**
  - Get to grips with very technical energy efficiency knowledge esp. on buildings and products
  - Start early to follow comitology process to be ready for the scrutiny
  - Engage with a broad spectrum of internal (other relevant committees) and external (NGOs) contacts to gather relevant information
- **Influence the new energy efficiency action plan:**
  - Questions to the new energy Commissioner
  - Non legislative resolution can call for action the EC
  - Tip: get to grips with previous EP positions on energy efficiency (e.g. position on EEAP) to ensure political credibility

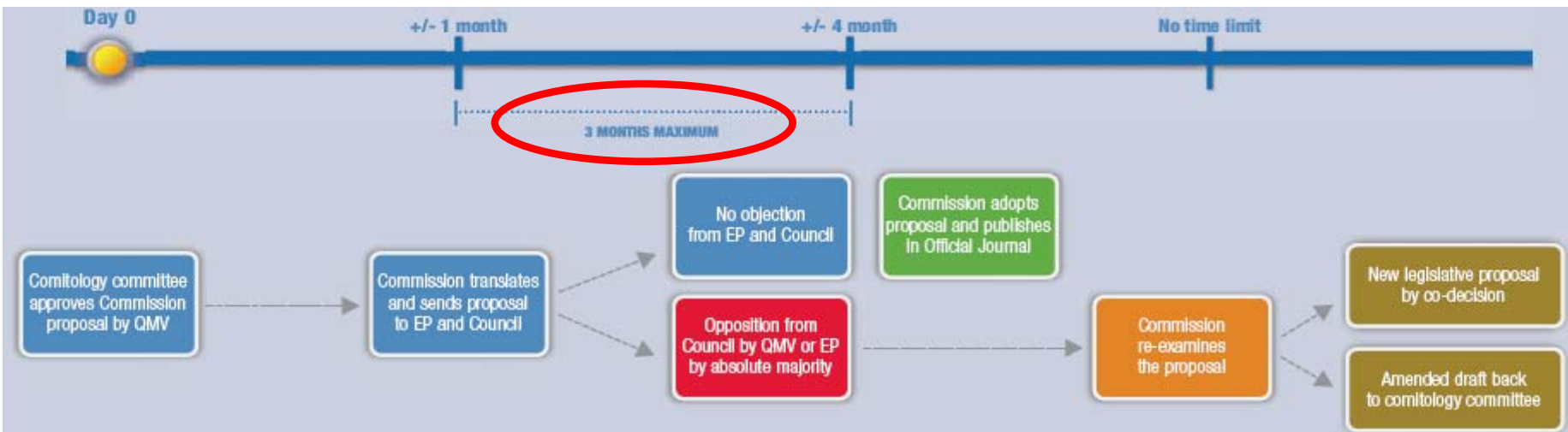
# Comitology with scrutiny



## RPS procedure:

- It takes **one MEP** in relevant committee to draft a blocking resolution
- Needs **absolute majority in plenary** to block the measure
- If so, EC can withdraw measure, make new one or propose legislation

## Timetable:





## **Implementation measures via comitology:**

- Preparatory study by the EC; Impact assessment
- Consultation forum (incl. MS rep, EP observers, trade unions, industry, NGOs)
- Scrutiny by EP and Council – (3 months) power of ‘veto’

## **Measure can be blocked by EP when it:**

1. exceeds the implementing powers in the delegating act
2. Is not compatible with the aim or the content of the legislation; or
3. does not respect the principles of subsidiarity or proportionality.

## **What can the EP do:**

- ✓MEPs can demand technical documentation to be sent to Committee in advance (often very technical – needs time for assimilation)
- ✓MEPs can participate as observers to the Consultation forum
- ✓Assistants can link with broad spectrum of stakeholders for briefings / advice
- ✓One MEP can take initiative to promote a motion of resolution for a vote

# Case study – use of comitology in ecodesign directive



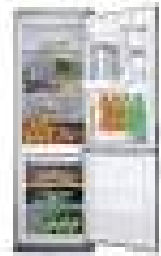
## Incandescent light bulbs ban (January 2009)

- Some members of the Environment Committee tabled a Resolution to reject the measure, arguing that such a move deserved a full legislative procedure.
- After intense lobbying (particularly by German industry), a vote was held.
- MEPs rejected the Resolution by 44 votes to 14 (almost all the MEPs were German).

### Lessons learnt:

- ✓ Product policy is subject to intense lobby from manufacturing countries / industries
- ✓ MEPs can be mobilised to veto Commission plans – but, as in co-decision votes, there is a need to build a coalition across nationalities and across political groups.

# Case study – use of comitology in energy labelling directive



## Energy labelling for televisions sets and ‘cold products’ (April 2009)



- The EC had proposed the new label (A -20%, as per proposed directive before adoption) clearly bypassing the EP and Council.
- The motion of resolutions were (narrowly) endorsed by the ITRE committee and later backed by the full assembly – the proposal rejected.
- **CECED**, the industry organisation for European household appliance manufacturers argued that during the delay millions of inefficient appliances would have been sold...
- It was the first veto used by the EP in comitology procedure...



- **ECOS - European Citizens Organisation for Standardisation** is the environmental NGOs' coordinator on eco-design and energy label: <http://www.ecostandard.org/>; Edouard Toulouse, ecosedign directive officer +32(0)28944657
- Campaign <http://www.coolproducts.eu/>
- **ECEEE** - European Council for and Energy Efficient Economy <http://www.eceee.org/> (e.g. Rod Janssen and Randall Bowie, experts on the EPBD)
- **WWF** - Arianna Vitali, Energy Efficiency officer +32(0)27400934
- **CAN** - Climate Action Network for Europe, Erica Hope, Energy Efficiency Officer +32(0)28944671
- **Intelligent Energy e-Library** brings together all tools and guidebooks produced under EU funded projects on energy efficiency: [www.iee-library.eu](http://www.iee-library.eu)



*Thank you!*

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