

Energy efficiency labelling

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One of the main achievements of the Council of the EU under the Maltese Presidency was in energy efficient labelling. Advancements in technology have urged the European Commission to adopt a regulation that substitutes the current legislation revamping its energy efficiency labelling system for *white goods*, namely, large domestic appliances. This will see the manufacturers replace the current ambiguous grades ranging from A+++ to G to a clear simple system showing an A to G scale.

This initiative is part of the Commission's wider Energy Union Strategy. The latter targets to increase energy efficiency by at least 27% in 2030, by cutting emissions, bring savings to customers and most importantly, reduce the EU's dependency on fossil fuel imports. The new labelling system will incite citizens to avoid excessive use of higher efficiency classes and to dispose of less efficient products, and retrospectively incite innovation. *Fixed deadlines* are established for the first rescaling of all labelled products. It also aims to improve enforcement mechanisms and transparency towards customers by creating a product database covering energy labelling requirements.

Furthermore, the proposal also incorporates clear rules on promotional campaigns and national incentives for Member States to promote higher classes of efficiency. It will ensure that a fair competition is stimulated and that environmentally friendly products are developed.

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