



Group for Efficient Appliances (GEA)

Memorandum of Understanding

on Voluntary Informative Activities regarding Home Entertainment and Office Equipment

MoU Partners

A	E.V.A.	Energieverwertungsagentur
CH	SFOE	Swiss Federal Office of Energy
D	EA NRW	Energieagentur Nordrheinwestfalen
DK	DEA	Danish Energy Agency EC E ⁿ R European Energy Network
NL	NOVEM	Nederlandse Organisatie voor Energie en Milieu
S	EM	Swedish National Energy Administration
FIN	MOTIVA	Information Centre for Energy Efficiency Finland

Industry Working Group

EACEM (European Association of Consumer Electronics Manufacturer) Grundig, Panasonic, Sony.

Other Parties

Direction Generale of the European Commission DG XVII (CEC) - Van Holsteijn en Kemna - consultant (NL)

Explanatory Note

Co-operation on Voluntary Informative Activities regarding Home Electronics and Office Equipment.

The energy consumption of home electronics and office equipment is substantial and has a strong upward trend. The European Commission as well as National Energy Agencies and Organisations have taken initiatives in order to reduce this energy consumption. In some European countries voluntary informative measures targeting at opening the market for energy efficient products (such as labelling schemes), have already been implemented or are planned for the near future.

Co-operation is required when organising effective National and European wide informative activities on a voluntary basis. In this respect a uniform communication and co-operation between public and private Energy Agencies/Organisations, relevant actors like manufacturers and importers and the European Commission is of main importance.

To increase the impact of voluntary informative measures on the development of energy efficient appliances, the marketing for such appliances should be effected for the whole market. To make it more convenient for the manufacturers and importers, to lower their costs and to make the handling of voluntary informative measures easier, common definitions, measuring methods, high efficiency performance criteria & levels should be used.

For this purpose, representatives of the Danish (DEA), Dutch (NOVEM) and Swedish (NUTEK) Energy Agencies and the Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) decided to formulate a 'Memorandum of Understanding' in order to establish this co-operation between themselves and similar European Energy Agencies/Organisations within the European Energy Network (EⁿR) to eventually contribute to the establishment of an European wide scheme.

Annexes:

- Memorandum of Understanding on Informative Activities regarding Home Electronics and Office Equipment.
- Contact points in the several MoU-member countries.

Memorandum of Understanding

On Voluntary Informative Activities regarding Home Electronics and Office Equipment

In several countries voluntary informative measures (such as labelling schemes) in order to reduce energy consumption of Home Electronics and Office Equipment have been implemented or are planned for the near future.

To give incentives to *the manufacturer* to produce more energy efficient appliances the various national voluntary informative activities should be harmonised in the best possible way. Harmonisation means the use of common procedures and efficiency levels, and therefore the promotion of energy efficient appliances through e.g. quality efficiency labels is feasible at low costs and easy handling.

The consumers benefit from a high market penetration of energy efficient appliances, which are specially marketed (through e.g. quality efficiency labels). This makes it easier to find energy efficient appliances in prospectuses and stores.

Eventually *the participants* can initiate internationally harmonised activities to meet national or international targets (such as reduction in CO₂ emission) at very low cost, as they can benefit from the experience of the other participants. Common and harmonised activities show much more impact when defining targets in the field of energy efficient products.

Co-operation is required when organising effective National and European wide voluntary informative activities. In this respect a uniform communication and co-operation between Energy Agencies/Organisations, relevant actors like manufacturers and importers and the European Commission are of main importance.

This MoU aims at the harmonisation of existing and planned voluntary informative activities in different countries as a short-term goal. On the long run the implementation of uniform voluntary informative activities (e.g. such as quality efficiency labels) in Europe is envisaged.

The undersigned participant agrees to the following principles and procedures for co-operation:

General Working Philosophy

- the participants exchange information regarding current and planned activities in order to improve co-ordination in the early stage of planned projects;
- the participants co-operate with regard to planned steps (only those mutually agreed upon) in the field of voluntary informative activities.

Working Procedures and Starting Points

- the participants use common definitions, measuring methods and identical high efficiency performance criteria & levels for voluntary informative measures, to be revised regularly (e.g. annually);
- high efficiency performance criteria & levels are dynamic; the starting point for harmonisation is the Swiss labelling scheme including the criteria for receiving the Energy 2000 label 1996;

- Voluntary Energy Quality Label Scheme:
 - only appliances with a high energy efficiency profile (so-called EE-level) will obtain an Voluntary Energy Quality Label (VEQL);
 - the manufacturers and importers can use the VEQL for those appliances meeting the EE-level and being registered according to the procedure agreed upon. This is based on the manufacturer's and importer's self-declaration;
 - arrangements regarding the EE-level and the underlying common definitions, measuring methods, efficiency performance criteria and the annual revision date(s) will be put forward and set in consultation with the industry. The state of art of energy efficient technology and the adaptability of the industry for implementing this technology in their production process will be taken into account. This could differ for each kind of product;
 - a high energy efficiency profile is to be understood as an EE-level which will only be reached by 20 - 30% of the most efficient models, available in the combined market of those countries taking part in the Voluntary Energy Quality Label Scheme, at the moment at which the commencing date and validity period are decided; in arrangements for the commencing date and the validity period of the EE-level, ambitious (however reasonable) demands concerning the adaptability of the industry will be taken into account;
 - adjustment of the EE-level for a specific kind of product will only be effectuated when it improves the energy efficiency profile;
 - the co-operation can be expanded to other types of products, when desired and only when a consensus between the signatories is reached.

Participation and Communication

- the initiators are automatically signatories;
- the participation is open to all EⁿR members. Other agencies or organisations can only participate after plenary balloting;
- agreements with other parties regarding harmonisation will be based on approval by all participants;
- the Working Group Chairman maintains a list of co-ordinates of the signatories;
- the Working Group Chairman organises the data and information exchange between all signatories, and will not exclude EⁿR Members, public and private Energy Agencies-/Organisations and relevant actors, like manufacturers and importers and the European Commission from data relevant to them;
- each participant monitors and evaluates its voluntary informative measures in a suitable way: information about evaluated market data must be exchanged.

The undersigned approves and agrees upon the above mentioned principles and with the signing of this MoU the undersigned commits to actively co-operate work on voluntary information activities regarding Home Electronics and Office Equipment. The undersigned commits by signature to not obstruct the co-operative work because of private benefit. The MoU will be signed by the active participant in the Working Group and countersigned by an authorised person within the signing agency/organisation.