

Eco-design Requirements for Energy-Using Products:

AmCham Germany on the Common position of the European Council

AmCham Germany believes that the common position of the Council on a Directive establishing a framework for the setting of Eco-design Requirements for Energy-Using Products and amending Council Directive 92/42/EEC has improved certain aspects and recommends that the Commission should generally endorse the proposals in the common position.

EuP is based on Article 95 and self-regulation is the priority with a holistic approach

AmCham Germany supports the fact that the EuP Directive is based on article 95 of the treaty establishing the European Community, that the role of self-regulation is given priority in the Council position, and that EUP directive remains flexible enough for environmental aspects to be balanced in a holistic way without specific long-term priorities.

Implementing measures and free movement of equipment

The process of developing an implementing measure in accordance with article 12 is pragmatic and workable. Transparency is enhanced by the working plan and the involvement of stakeholders.

Although the principle of free movement of goods within the Internal Market is generally established, the directive would benefit from the explicit mention of the free movement of products within the scope of EuP but not covered by an implementing measure. If member states introduce national legislation for products not covered by an implementing measure, this would hinder the free movement of goods.

Voluntary measures

AmCham Germany welcomes the fact that the role of self-regulation is given priority, and that it remains the prerogative of the Commission to enter into voluntary agreements with industry in a flexible manner. AmCham encourages the Commission to extend the use of voluntary measures in the light of this directive, before developing implementing measures.

Company internal information

Part 2 of Annex I requires documentation on "*Information from the designer relating to the manufacturing process*". However, such company internal information is not necessary for regulating products being placed on the internal market, i.e., after the manufacturing process.

In conclusion, AmCham Germany supports EICTA's position on this issue and agrees with the general direction of the common position of the Council on the EuP Directive. Therefore, AmCham Germany urges the Commission to fully support these modifications in their communications with the European Parliament.

American Chamber of Commerce in Germany e.V.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Germany (AmCham Germany) is a private, non-profit organization. With over 3,000 members, it is the largest bilateral economic organization in Europe and represents the largest group of foreign investors in Germany. The goals of AmCham Germany include the promotion of German-American trade relationships and investment in Germany.

This paper is based on information from EICTA, the European Information, Consumer Electronics and Communications, Technology, Industry Association. For more information please see www.EICTA.org.

Frankfurt, 08. Januar 2005

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