Procedure file

Basic information

NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision	2012/0048(NLE)	Procedure completed
EU/US Agreement: coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment Subject 3.60.08 Energy efficiency 3.60.15 Cooperation and agreements for energy 3.70.17 European ecolabel and ecolabelling, ecodesign Geographical area United States		

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy		14/05/2012
		NI KOVÁCS Béla	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		PPE MAZEJ KUKOVIČ Zofija	
		S&D THOMSEN Britta	
		ALDE HALL Fiona	
		Verts/ALE HASSI Satu	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	3198	13/11/2012
	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	3175	15/06/2012
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Energy	OETTINGER Günther	

Key events

15/03/2012	Preparatory document	COM(2012)0108	Summary
04/06/2012	Legislative proposal published	09890/2012	Summary
12/06/2012	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
15/06/2012	Debate in Council	3175	Summary

18/09/2012	Vote in committee		
20/09/2012	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A7-0275/2012	Summary
26/10/2012	Results of vote in Parliament		
26/10/2012	Decision by Parliament	T7-0403/2012	Summary
13/11/2012	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
13/11/2012	End of procedure in Parliament		
06/03/2013	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2012/0048(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p6a; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 207
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/7/09177

Documentation gateway

Preparatory document		COM(2012)0108	15/03/2012	EC	Summary
Legislative proposal		09890/2012	04/06/2012	CSL	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		10193/2012	04/06/2012	CSL	
Committee draft report		PE491.253	21/06/2012	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0275/2012	20/09/2012	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0403/2012	26/10/2012	EP	Summary

Additional information

National parliaments	IPEX
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act

Decision 2013/107
OJ L 063 06.03.2013, p. 0005 Summary

EU/US Agreement: coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment

PURPOSE: to conclude the Agreement between the United States of America and the European Union on the coordination of

energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: office equipment will account for a growing share of energy consumption in future as new applications and functionalities appear. In order to meet the Union target for a 20% reduction in primary energy consumption by 2020 relative to projections, as endorsed at the Spring 2007 European Council, the energy performance of office equipment has to be further optimised.

To date, the main means of improving the energy consumption of office equipment has been the EU Energy Star Programme. This was established by the US Environmental Protection Agency and is implemented in the EU on the basis of an Agreement between the US and the EU, which was renewed in 2006 for a period of 5 years. From 2008, the programme was reinforced by Regulation (EC) No 106/2008 on a Community energy-efficiency labelling programme for office equipment.

On 12 July 2011 the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate an Agreement between the United States of America and the European Union on the coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment. The negotiations have been concluded and the Agreement between the United States of America and the European Union on the coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment was initialled by both Parties on 29 November 2011.

A proposal for the amendment of Regulation (EC) No 106/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Community energy-efficiency labelling programme for office equipment is presented in parallel with this draft Decision.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: the proposal takes into account the experience gained during the first two periods of implementation of the Energy Star Programme in the EU from 2001 to 2010, as well as the consultations with the European Union Energy Star Board.

The detailed rationale for concluding a new Agreement continuing the Energy Star Programme for a third period of five years is set out in the Recommendation from the Commission to the Council to open negotiations for the third Energy Star Agreement and in the Communication on the implementation of the Energy Star Programme in the period 2006-2010.

The main points are as follows :

- Energy Star has been very effective in steering the office equipment market towards greater energy efficiency. It has succeeded in reducing the electricity consumption of office equipment sold in the last 3 years by around 11 TWh, i.e. by approximately 16 %. As a result, more than EUR 1.8 bn have been saved on energy bills and 3.7 Mt of CO2 emissions have been avoided.
- It provides a flexible and dynamic policy framework which is particularly well suited to fast-evolving products such as ICT (information and communication technology).
- The EU and the US should continue to cooperate on developing product specifications, so that the same level of requirements can be introduced at approximately the same time by both entities.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 207, in conjunction with Article 218(6)(a)(iii) TFEU.

CONTENT: as required by the negotiating directives provided by the Council to the Commission, Article VI of the new agreement makes it possible for manufacturers to self-certify their products in the EU. Under the new agreement there will thus be two separate product-registration systems: self-certification in the EU and third-party certification in the US.

The new Agreement now provides greater clarity regarding the respective responsibilities of the Commission and Member States with respect to the enforcement of the EU Energy Star Programme without, however, creating any new obligations as compared with the current agreement and Regulation (EC) 106/2008.

There are no other substantial changes in the new agreement as compared with the current text. Annex C contains the common technical specifications (efficiency criteria for obtaining the Energy Star qualification and label) as amended by Commission Decisions 2009/789/EC, 2009/489/EC and 2009/347/EC. It will be amended in line with the procedure set out in Article XII of the new agreement should new or updated specifications be established by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the European Commission.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: the proposal aims at continuing the implementation of an existing programme and therefore has no impact on operational and administrative appropriations and on human resources.

EU/US Agreement: coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment

PURPOSE: to conclude the Agreement between the United States of America and the European Union on the coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: office equipment will account for a growing share of energy consumption in future as new applications and functionalities appear. In order to meet the Union target for a 20% reduction in primary energy consumption by 2020 relative to projections, as endorsed at the Spring 2007 European Council, the energy performance of office equipment has to be further optimised.

To date, the main means of improving the energy consumption of office equipment has been the EU Energy Star Programme. This was established by the US Environmental Protection Agency and is implemented in the EU on the basis of an Agreement between the US and the EU, which was renewed in 2006 for a period of 5 years. From 2008, the programme was reinforced by Regulation (EC) No 106/2008 on a Community energy-efficiency labelling programme for office equipment.

On 12 July 2011 the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate an Agreement between the United States of America and the European Union on the coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment. The negotiations have been concluded and the Agreement between the United States of America and the European Union on the coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment was initialled by both Parties on 29 November 2011.

A proposal for the amendment of Regulation (EC) No 106/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Community energy-efficiency labelling programme for office equipment is presented in parallel with this draft Decision.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: the proposal takes into account the experience gained during the first two periods of implementation of the Energy Star Programme in the EU from 2001 to 2010, as well as the consultations with the European Union Energy Star Board.

The detailed rationale for concluding a new Agreement continuing the Energy Star Programme for a third period of five years is set out in the Recommendation from the Commission to the Council to open negotiations for the third Energy Star Agreement and in the Communication on the implementation of the Energy Star Programme in the period 2006-2010.

The main points are as follows :

- Energy Star has been very effective in steering the office equipment market towards greater energy efficiency. It has succeeded in reducing the electricity consumption of office equipment sold in the last 3 years by around 11 TWh, i.e. by approximately 16 %. As a result, more than EUR 1.8 billion have been saved on energy bills and 3.7 Mt of CO2 emissions have been avoided.
- It provides a flexible and dynamic policy framework which is particularly well suited to fast-evolving products such as ICT (information and communication technology).
- The EU and the US should continue to cooperate on developing product specifications, so that the same level of requirements can be introduced at approximately the same time by both entities.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 194 and 207, in conjunction with Article 218(6)(a)(iii) of the TFEU.

CONTENT: as required by the negotiating directives provided by the Council to the Commission, Article VI of the new agreement makes it possible for manufacturers to self-certify their products in the EU. Under the new agreement there will thus be two separate product-registration systems: self-certification in the EU and third-party certification in the US.

The new Agreement now provides greater clarity regarding the respective responsibilities of the Commission and Member States with respect to the enforcement of the EU Energy Star Programme without, however, creating any new obligations as compared with the current agreement and Regulation (EC) 106/2008.

There are no other substantial changes in the new agreement as compared with the current text. Annex C contains the common technical specifications (efficiency criteria for obtaining the Energy Star qualification and label) as amended by Commission Decisions 2009/789/EC, 2009/489/EC and 2009/347/EC. It will be amended in line with the procedure set out in Article XII of the new agreement should new or updated specifications be established by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the European Commission.

Comitology provisions as regards the management of the Agreement: since office equipment is a fast evolving market, it is essential to frequently reassess the potential for maximising energy savings and environmental benefits by stimulating the supply of, and demand for, energy-efficient products. It is therefore necessary to empower the Commission, assisted by a Union advisory board composed of national representatives and of all interested parties, to regularly reassess and upgrade the Common Specifications of office equipment set out in the Agreement.

Given that manufacturers participating in the EU ENERGY STAR Programme are mostly small and medium-sized enterprises, product registration in the Union should continue to be unburdensome and based on self-certification. This should be coupled with stronger enforcement of the EU ENERGY STAR Programme by the Commission in cooperation with Member States.

The Technical Commission established by the Agreement should be responsible for reviewing the implementation of the Agreement. Pursuant to the Agreement, the United States of America and the Union are each to designate a management entity responsible for implementation of the Agreement. To that effect the Union should designate the Commission as a management entity,

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: the proposal aims at continuing the implementation of an existing programme and therefore has no impact on operational and administrative appropriations and on human resources.

EU/US Agreement: coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment

The presidency briefed the Council on the **state of play** of the new Energy Star Agreement with the United States on energy efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment.

The agreement aims to continually reduce the energy consumption of office equipment such as computers, displays, printers, copiers etc.

It will cover another five-year period.

EU/US Agreement: coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy adopted the non-legislative report by Béla KOVACS (HU, NI) on the draft Council decision on the signing and conclusion of the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the European Union on the coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment. It recommended that Parliament consent to conclusion of the Convention.

Members welcome the successful conclusion of negotiations for a new Agreement extending the ENERGY STAR programme, since the programme has been very effective in steering the office equipment market towards greater energy efficiency.

EU/US Agreement: coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment

The European Parliament adopted a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the signing and conclusion of the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the European Union on the coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment.

The European Parliament gives its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.

EU/US Agreement: coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment

PURPOSE: the conclusion of an Agreement between the United States of America and the EU on the coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision 2013/107/EU on the signing and conclusion of the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the European Union on the coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment.

BACKGROUND: on 12 July 2011 the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate an Agreement between the United States of America and the European Union on the coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment. The negotiations have been concluded and the Agreement was initialled by both Parties on 29 November 2011.

The Agreement should be approved on behalf of the European Union.

CONTENT: under this Decision, the Agreement between the United States of America and the EU on the coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment is approved on behalf of the Union.

Scope of the Agreement: office equipment will account for a growing share of energy consumption in the future as new applications and functionalities appear. In order to meet the Union objective of saving 20 % of its energy consumption compared to projections for 2020, as endorsed at the Spring 2007 European Council, the energy performance of office equipment has to be further optimised.

To date, the main means of improving the energy consumption of office equipment has been the EU Energy Star Programme. This was established by the US Environmental Protection Agency and is implemented in the EU on the basis of an Agreement between the US and the EU, which was renewed in 2006 for a period of 5 years. From 2008, the programme was reinforced by Regulation (EC) No 106/2008 on a Community energy-efficiency labelling programme for office equipment, most recently amended by Regulation No 174/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Given that manufacturers participating in the EU Energy Star programme are mostly small and medium-sized enterprises, product registration in the Union should continue to be unburden some and based on self-certification. This should be coupled with stronger enforcement of the EU Energy Star programme by the Commission in cooperation with Member States.

Management and enforcement of the Agreement: since office equipment is a fast evolving market, it is essential to frequently reassess the potential for maximising energy savings and environmental benefits by stimulating the supply of, and demand for, energy- efficient products. It is therefore necessary to empower the Commission, assisted by a Union advisory board composed of national representatives and of all interested parties, to regularly reassess and upgrade the Common Specifications of office equipment set out in the Agreement.

Management entity: pursuant to the Agreement, the United States of America and the Union are each to designate a management entity responsible for implementation of the Agreement. To that effect the Union should designate the Commission as a management entity.

Internal Union procedures are foreseen to ensure the proper operation of the Agreement.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: the Decision enters into force on 27 March 2013.