

EPEE NEWS

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2007

The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment is pleased to present its bimonthly newsletter.

Please note this version is designed for external use and its content has thus been reduced. The full version of the newsletter (including links to key documents, EPEE's comments/action points, calendar of events, "on the intranet" section and "Message from the Director General") is available for EPEE members only.

To receive additional information on EPEE and the benefits of membership, please contact the Secretariat: secretariat@epeeglobal.org

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For EPEE members only!

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For EPEE members only!

I. Monitoring & recent events

Key recent events of significance to EPEE members

1. Climate change/EU policy: Commission issues new Communication on future climate change policy.

The European Commission published on 10 January 2007 its Communication entitled “*Limiting Global Climate Change to 2 degrees Celsius - The way ahead for 2020 and beyond*”.

A wide ranging document on the EU’s future climate change policy, the Communication came together with a new energy package called “Energy for a changing world”. Essentially, it outlines the following measures:

- With regard to post Kyoto protocol targets, the EU should take a “firm independent commitment to achieve at least a **20% reduction** of GHG emissions by 2020” (compared to 1990 levels); however, this target could be increased if other countries agreed on a multilateral commitment to **reduce emissions by 30%** in the same time period;
- To achieve these objectives, the Commission intends to boost energy efficiency (as agreed in the energy efficiency action plan), extend the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) to other gases and sectors (e.g. aviation) and reduce transport emissions (e.g. CO2 emissions from cars);
- On F-gases in particular, the Communication identifies “**further restricting or prohibiting uses of fluorinated gases**” as a possible measure.

The Communication on climate change and the energy package are to be discussed by the Member States during the Spring Council (8-9 March 2007), whilst discussions have already been held during the Energy and Environment Councils, and at the Parliament. Although specific policy measures will be handled separately (e.g. CO2 emissions from cars, please see article below), it clearly underlines that climate change will be the ‘topic of the year’ in Brussels.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

EPEE’s action points/comments:

For EPEE members only!

2. Climate change: Human-caused global warming "unequivocal".

On the 2 February 2007 in Paris, the United Nations Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued its first major global assessment on climate change. According to their conclusions, "advances in climate modelling and the collection and analysis of data now give scientists very high confidence" that human activities are unequivocally warming the planet.

Insisting on the scientific evidence of the assessment, "the most rigorous and comprehensive" one in climate science, Achim Steiner, director of the UN's environment programme called on policymakers, especially in the US, China and India, to put in place strong greenhouse gas abatement policies. "**Decision makers are now armed with the latest facts and will be better able to respond to these realities**", he said. Certain NGOs also took this occasion to reiterate their call for EU leaders to back a 30% reduction target for 2020.

The IPCC does not in itself conduct research. Its mandate is to make policy-relevant assessments of the existing worldwide literature on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of climate change.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

3. Climate change/HFCs: Increasing number of businesses commit to climate change effort.

A growing number of businesses have committed themselves to improve climate change in the past months.

On HFCs in particular, the "Refrigerant Naturally!" alliance, which is committed to promote the shift "**towards alternative HFC-free refrigeration technologies**", has gained three new members (Ikea, Pepsi-Co, Carlsberg), adding to the core group constituted by McDonald's, Coca-Cola, Unilever. The alliance is backed by both UNEP and Greenpeace.

In addition, leaders from 15 major worldwide businesses (including Alstom, Bayer, Siemens, Suez, etc.) presented on 11 January their so-called **Combat Climate Change ("3C") initiative**. The initiative, which is wide-ranging, underlines the general commitment from these companies to 'do their bit' on climate change.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

EPEE's action points/comments:

For EPEE members only!

4. F-gases: Commission Decision on Danish ban published in Official Journal.

The Decision from the European Commission with regard to the Danish restricting measures on F-Gas was published in the Official Journal on 6 February 2007. The decision had been previously adopted in December 2006. The Danish text, which prohibits F-gas in principle, features possible exemptions for individual appliances. It is thus thought that in practice, many applications using HFCs will be allowed.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

EPEE's action points/comments:

For EPEE members only!

5. Energy efficiency: Experts urge efficiency focus in EU energy plan.

In December 2006, the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC) urged German Chancellor Angela Merkel in a letter to put **energy efficiency** as a **top priority** on the agenda of the European Spring Council, which will be held on **8-9 March**.

The European Spring Summit is expected to adopt a plan of action for Europe's energy policy based on the Energy and Climate Change package set out by the Commission on 10 January.

On 15 February, EU Energy Ministers gave their strong support to the package and reached a total consensus to the Commission's target to save 20% of the EU's energy consumption by 2020. In its letter, the EEAC calls upon the EU Member States' leaders to opt for an even more ambitious target.

The Experts further call upon the EU heads of states to consider shifting taxation from labour to resources and energy and to amend and improve the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

EPEE's action points/comments:

For EPEE members only!

6. Eco-labelling/heat pumps: debate on heat pumps gets under way.

In December 2006, the European Commission published a statement saying that, unfortunately, the works undertaken thus far on the establishment of criteria for eco-labelling heat pumps were not appropriate for EU implementation at the current status. The Commission therefore revised the draft document, and included stronger requirements for clear guidance to customers at the point of sale, as well as for clear guidance and training for installers.

The Commission invited the stakeholders to give their comments to the revised draft, and is now planning to propose an amended document to the Member States in the Spring.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

EPEE's action points/comments:

For EPEE members only!

7. Eco-labelling: EU Launches Consultation on eco-labelling scheme.

The Commission has launched a public consultation on the EU ecolabel, as it prepares to propose revision to the scheme. The consultation takes the form of a questionnaire and is the second part of a process that started with an evaluation study. Stakeholders should send their contributions by the end of February 2007.

Eco-labels are awarded to individual applications (e.g. refrigerators, televisions), in an attempt to reward the most 'environmentally friendly' technologies available on the market. EPEE is interested in the eco-labelling of heat pumps in particular (please see separate article).

Key documents:

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8. EuP: Eco-design law implementation starts.

A second call for tender for Preparatory Studies to set eco-design requirements for energy-using products has been launched by the Commission on the 3 January 2007.

This new batch will cover solid fuel small combustion installations (lot 15), laundry dryers (Lot 16), vacuum cleaners (Lot 17), complex set top boxes with conditional access and/or functions that are always on (Lot 18) and domestic lighting (Lot 19).

The deadline for two first preparatory studies on “battery chargers and external power supplies” (Lot 7) and on “street lighting” (Lot 9) was closed on 28th February. A second group of reports should be finished this spring, covering computers (Lot 3), televisions (Lot 5), standby losses (Lot 6) and office lighting (Lot 8).

These studies aim to set out the existing economic and technical position and identify which eco-design improvement requirements should be set for a particular group of products. They prepare the next phases (carried out by the Commission) which are the impact assessment, the consultation of the Eco-design Forum and a possible draft implementing measure.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

EPEE’s action points/comments:

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9. Energy efficiency in buildings: France, UK establish cooperation on energy efficiency in buildings

On 17 January, the French and the British Governments held a joint-seminar in London to explore the possibilities for cooperation on energy efficiency in the residential sector. National measures with regard to house design, as well as initiatives to change consumer behaviour, were compared. The UK is already giving energy certificates to buildings, and France, which has postponed the implementation of the Directive until 2009, has expressed its interest in learning from their experiences.

Key documents:

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EPEE’s action points/comments:

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10. Energy: New Eurobarometer reveals increasing interest for energy issues.

On Monday 8 January, the European Commission published a Eurobarometer survey on EU citizens’ knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of energy issues.

The report consists of five chapters dealing with the following themes: general perception, knowledge and attitudes towards energy issues, perceived measures to tackle the challenges, and perceived consequences of energy issues in the future.

54% of EU citizens think that reducing energy consumption should be a priority, and 60% think that energy research should be a priority for the European Union. Europeans are particularly concerned by energy price hikes: 76% are of the view that energy prices will double in the next 3 years.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

11. [Energy efficiency](#): Commission presents “World Energy Technology Outlook 2050” study.

The Commission released on 8 January its World Energy Technology Outlook study (WETO-H2). WETO-H2 features two possible scenarios to promote new clean energy technologies such as carbon capture & storage, low energy buildings, low emission cars, and hydrogen production from renewable and nuclear sources. Identifying a ‘reference case’ of the world energy system in 2050 that assumes a continuation of the general economical and technical behaviour, the study compares the ‘reference case’ with a ‘carbon-constraint case’ and a ‘hydrogen case’.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

12. [Climate change/cars](#): Commission makes proposals on CO2 emissions from cars.

After lengthy internal debates, the European Commission presented on 6 February its proposals to cut down CO2 emission from cars.

Essentially, the Commission will come up with a legislative proposal setting a 130g/km limit, which is less ambitious than the 120g/km limit advocated by Environment Commissioner, Stravros Dimas. Other measures to further reduce CO2 emissions will include a review of the car labelling Directive, taxation measures, actions to promote eco-driving, and compulsory monitoring systems for tyres.

Key documents:

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