



EUROPEAN
ENVIRONMENTAL
BUREAU



Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker
President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi, 200
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Brussels, 28 October 2016

CC: College of Commissioners

Let's reinforce not reduce Ecodesign and Ecolabel

Dear President Juncker,

We are writing on behalf of consumer and environmental organisations to express our deep concern about the reported outcome of the College of Commissioners' orientation debate which took place on 25 October regarding the Ecodesign Working Plan 2015-2017 and the future of the EU Ecolabel.

Both Ecodesign and Ecolabel play an essential role in slashing emissions, reducing energy dependence, saving citizens' money and empowering Europeans to consume more sustainably.

According to various media reports, a number of consumer and commercial products would be excluded from the next Ecodesign Working Plan, which defines candidates for product-specific requirements and for the Energy Label. If this were to happen, potential savings equivalent to the national annual residential electricity consumption of Ireland would be lost. The 1.5-year delay in publishing the Ecodesign Working Plan will create a €10 billion loss for consumers and companies.

As already communicated to you, a [new study](#) underlines the benefits for consumers and the environment of Ecodesign and the related Energy Label, benefits that could be duplicated with more ambitious and timely requirements. We therefore call for the swift publication of a comprehensive Working Plan followed by rapid implementation.

Reports from this week's meeting also suggest that the future of the EU Ecolabel is now even being thrown into question – this despite the fact that there is an increase in the number of product groups and services being awarded the label. For example, companies and retailers are supportive of the EU Ecolabel for tissue paper, used in around 7,000 products. However, this is reported to be one of the candidate product groups that could be discontinued.

Such a move is simply bad governance since stakeholders and companies represented in the EU Ecolabelling Board were not involved in this process and stakeholders consulted in the Fitness Check rejected the option of discontinuing the EU Ecolabel.

Instead of undermining these successful EU policies, we urge you to strengthen both the Ecodesign and the EU Ecolabel instruments by:

- unlocking the adoption and swift development of ambitious measures;
- expanding the product groups covered instead of reducing them;
- allocating enough resources to ensure the effective implementation of both pieces of legislation.

By suggesting that the Commission will scrap some product groups without providing any details about which ones will actually be on the list, you are focusing solely on what you will not do without any concern for the success of these policies for consumers, businesses and the environment. It also suggests that you are being unduly influenced by certain media outlets that have played a pivotal role in whipping up anti-EU sentiments that are now threatening to undermine the Union.

The way to address this is through a more proactive communication strategy on the objective benefits of Ecodesign and Ecolabel, rather than through weakening policies which are clearly in the interests of European citizens and companies. Crucially, as the world tries to address the climate emergency, we cannot afford to miss out on this major opportunity to slash our energy consumption and related emissions.

If the Commission were to roll out an ambitious plan for Ecodesign and Ecolabel and relay this to European citizens, our organisations would certainly be vocal in their support.

Yours sincerely,

Monique Goyens
BEUC Director General

Jeremy Wates
EEB Secretary General

Laura Degallaix
ECOS Director

Stephen Russell
ANEC Secretary General