



The European Consumers' Organisation

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

PRESS RELEASE

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## **Change of energy label: no need to reinvent the wheel**

The European Parliament is set to ratify (tomorrow May 19<sup>th</sup>) an agreement with the European Council that would fundamentally alter Europe's existing and successful labelling system of the energy efficiency of products. The existing A-G scale is well known by consumers across Europe and gives them a quick and informative method of determining the energy efficiency of many energy using products, such as refrigerators or washing machines.

The new system will add many new and complex categories that could take years to reach the public consciousness and for consumer organisations, this is a backward and unnecessary step.

Monique Goyens, Director General of BEUC, the European Consumers' Organisation, said:

"This compromise will not help consumers in the slightest. For 15 years, we have had a successful energy labelling scheme. Adding extra categories and changing the colour coding to signify different things over time will not help make consumers aware about appliances with the lowest energy consumption. More globally, this new scheme will not have any effect in directing markets to more energy efficient products. No-one is enthusiastic about this new Energy Label and the European institutions should have the courage to admit their mistake and go back to the drawing board."

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