

## **Don't turn a blind eye to inefficient electric heaters**

Electric room heaters are set to be exempted from standard energy labelling requirements under controversial European Commission plans, thereby making it more difficult for consumers to uncover the staggeringly high energy consumption rates of these appliances.

Unlike other technologies that use gas or wood fuels, electric room heaters would not be required to display the well-known energy label. This saves producers the embarrassment of seeing their products consistently labelled in the lowest classes of the scale compared with more energy-efficient technologies.

The cost of heating with electricity is a huge burden for many consumers already confronted by high energy bills. For Monique Goyens, Director General of BEUC, "exempting electric heaters from the energy label requirement would deprive consumers of a key tool for comparing energy consumption rates between heating devices".

European Commission Ecodesign and Energylabelling plans for room heaters aim to lead to savings of 30 Terrawatt hours (TWh) per year by 2020. But, according to Stephen Russell, Secretary-General of ANEC, "pulling the plug on labelling the most inefficient products would severely risk that goal being reached and keep consumers uninformed about cheaper options".