

Subject: Ecodesign is a policy that delivers for people in times of energy crisis. To tap its full potential, it needs to be better funded.

Dear Executive Vice-President Timmermans,

BEUC releases today [a new study](#) demonstrating that the European Commission's ambitious policy in Ecodesign delivers to the environment and to the people. To tap its full potential, it is now important that the Commission allocates sufficient financial and human resources to the further development of Ecodesign measures.

Our research demonstrates that European households make very significant savings every year on their energy costs thanks to Ecodesign measures. This was especially striking in 2022, at the peak of energy prices, where consumers savings achieved thanks to Ecodesign increased exponentially, ranging between €850 and €2,450. Ecodesign is thus a central piece of the consumer protection puzzle also in times of crisis. Beyond its great benefits for consumers purchasing power, Ecodesign also clearly contributes to the EU energy efficiency objectives, to the fight against the climate crisis and to making Europe more resilient against external energy shocks.

This is the reason why Ecodesign has been a priority work area for BEUC and its members for over 15 years. During this time, BEUC has actively participated in the development of ambitious product-specific rules, effectively representing the consumers' perspective in the policy discussions. We have contributed to the development and revisions of many Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations, making sure consumers' needs were duly represented over the years.

Alas, our experience from the recent implementation of Ecodesign policies is that the development of new product-specific rules often suffers from a lack of human and financial resources. For instance, the current Ecodesign Working Plan, covering the period between 2020 and 2024, was only adopted last year with two years of delay. This is mainly due to lack of resources in the responsible teams in the Commission.

The mismatch between the Commission's political ambition for Ecodesign – which is to “make sustainable products the norm” – and resources made available to achieve this objective is only likely to increase once the currently ongoing revision of the Ecodesign framework will be finalised. With the new Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation, new rules will virtually apply to all product categories and much more numerous sustainability criteria. The development of new product rules will therefore become more complex and will require more preparatory work and technical expertise. Without a substantial increase in human and financial resources, we are concerned that the Commission will fail to deliver on this objective.

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This would be a missed opportunity as Ecodesign can play a central role in making consumer products more sustainable and contribute to the EU circular economy objectives.

Ecodesign is a time and resource-intensive policy but as our research clearly shows, the financial, environmental and energy consumption benefits achieved through Ecodesign largely outweighs the costs. We are therefore convinced that it is a policy very much worth investing in and call upon the Commission to match its ambition for the future of Ecodesign with adequate resources.

We look forward to hearing your response and remain available for a discussion on this topic.

Please note that we will address these points also in a letter to Commissioners Breton, Hahn, Simson, Sinkevičius and Reynders.

Yours faithfully,

Monique Goyens,
Director General