



ANEC-ML-2009-0127



LDE/052009136/cm

8 May 2009

## **European Parliament sends strong message to keep the A-G Energy Label**

ANEC, the European Consumer Voice in Standardisation, and BEUC, the European Consumers' Organisation, welcome the European Parliament's votes this week on the Energy labelling framework Directive and on a Commission proposal for a new Energy Label for televisions. These two votes send a clear signal that the aim of the Energy Label is first and foremost a tool to inform consumers, and that its well-known A-G layout should therefore be maintained.

On 6 May the European Parliament adopted a Resolution objecting to a measure originally proposed by the Commission and adopted by Member States which would have introduced a new and confusing Energy Label for televisions, based on A -20%, A -30%, A -40% etc added on top of the A class. Instead, the Parliament calls on the Commission to submit a new proposal for a new label based on the existing closed A-G scale by the end of September 2009.

This decision gave further support to the Parliament's vote on 5 May on the Energy Labelling framework Directive, in which it rejected a move away from the successful A-G Energy Label layout. They voted to include provisions to regularly update the closed A-G scale and add a validity period to the label to ensure transparency.

We strongly welcome these two votes as a clear message from the Parliament that the closed-scale A-G label should continue to be the basis for the EU Energy Label. We believe that the energy labelling scheme should be made more dynamic by simply including a validity period on the label and regularly updating the A-G scale, as voted for by the Parliament. This would also ensure that any possible confusion to consumers during transition periods is minimised.

The Parliament also voted on a Motion for a Resolution objecting to the new Energy Label for refrigerating appliances. However, as the required absolute majority was not reached by a very small margin of four votes, the Motion was not adopted. This decision contradicts the result of the earlier votes and means that the Commission may proceed in introducing the new confusing Energy Label with A -X% classes on top of A for refrigerating appliances.

**With a view to the Parliament's votes, ANEC and BEUC call on the Commission to review its proposal for a new Energy Label for televisions with all stakeholders as soon as possible and to seek a solution which will allow keeping the closed A-G scale. In order to ensure consistency on the market, we urge Member States to reconsider their decision, and not to introduce a new confusing Energy Label for refrigerating appliances.**