

# Project on Consumer Representation in the European Eco-design of Energy-using Products Process

## Project Description

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*Disclaimer*

The views expressed in any of the publications produced within the context of this project are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission.

## 1 The “EuP” process

The Eco-design of Energy-using Products Directive (2005/32/EC) aims at setting up eco-design requirements for energy-using products. Following the publication of the Directive in July 2005, the European Commission has contracted 17 product-specific ‘preparatory studies’, with a further two expected in the coming months. These studies form part of the overall ‘EuP process’, and will recommend ways to improve the environmental performance of the products by assessing the environmental aspects over the entire life cycle of the energy-using product in question (production, distribution, use and end-of-life management). These studies shall provide the necessary information to prepare for the next phases (carried out by the European Commission) which are impact assessments, the consultation of the stakeholder Consultation Forum and possible draft implementing measures.

The EuP process will only concern the significant environmental aspects of a product, taking into consideration which improvement potential is technically feasible and possible, and what the respective implications are, e.g. in terms of life cycle costs<sup>1</sup> (assessed by the product preparatory studies and the stakeholder Consultation Forum). The framework Directive is complemented by implementing measures (either adopted by the Commission assisted by a Regulatory Committee, or by voluntary agreements by industry). These will set the product eco-design requirements and may be generic (aiming at improvement of overall environmental performance) and/or specific (in the form of e.g. limit values for selected environmental aspects). Manufacturers can use harmonised product standards (measurement and testing) to help apply implementing measures and indicate conformity with them. Finally, Member States are to set up market surveillance to ensure product conformity.

The European Commission will establish a **Working Plan** in order to set out for the following three years an indicative list of additional product groups which will be considered as further priorities for the adoption of future EuP implementing measures. To prepare this Working Plan, the Commission contracted a “Study for preparing the first Working Plan of the Eco-Design Directive”. This study will result in a short list of 25 product (groups), indicating the priorities among all the products examined during the study<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Life cycle costs comprise all costs which incur for the consumers during acquisition, use and disposal of a product (e.g. purchase price, installation costs, costs for consumables like electricity, water, paper, or disposal fees etc.).

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.epta.gr/xar/index.php/eco>

As mentioned above, the Commission has also established a **Consultation Forum**<sup>3</sup> in order to allow stakeholders to be informed and provide their contribution on the implementation of the EuP Directive. The task of this group of experts will be to contribute in particular to the definition and review of the (draft) implementing measures, to monitor the efficiency of the established market surveillance mechanisms, and to assess the voluntary agreements and other self-regulatory measures potentially taken in the context of the Directive.

## 2 Rationale for and goal of the current project

In late December 2006 the European Commission published a call for tender regarding a project "Work on preparatory Studies for Eco-design Requirements of Energy-using Products (EuP) (II) and on Stakeholder Representation". This call was in response to the ANEC and BEUC request for adequate funding for consumer organisations to take part in the numerous EuP activities and meetings. The tender was subdivided into 7 lots, of which Lot C is to ensure consumer representation in EuP activities. Lot E aims at ensuring environmental NGO representation. The contractors of Lot C are to ensure that the views of all consumer organisations are well represented in the on-going and up-coming EuP product preparatory studies and in the Eco-design Stakeholder Consultation Forum.

Following this tender, the European Commission contracted a consortium of five organisations in September 2007, to accomplish the required work. The consortium consists of:

- Öko-Institut e.V.: Overall coordination and project management; Technical consultant.
- BEUC (the European Consumers' Organisation): Consumer representation in EuP process.
- ANEC (the European consumer voice in standardisation): Consumer representation in EuP process.
- ICRT (International Consumer Research & Testing): Technical assistance.
- CBS (Copenhagen Business School): Scientific advice.

The **overall goal** of this three-year project is to ensure that the views of the European consumer organisations are well represented in the preparatory process leading to implementing measures under the EuP Directive, both in the project phase of the various preparatory studies and in the Consultation Forum.

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<sup>3</sup> For further information about the consultation forum and scheduled meetings, see:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/demand/legislation/eco\\_design\\_en.htm#consultation\\_forum](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/demand/legislation/eco_design_en.htm#consultation_forum)

To achieve this goal, the following tasks shall be carried out:

- *Technical follow-up of the preparatory work:* Each preparatory study accomplishes a set of interim and final reports and holds several stakeholder meetings to discuss the findings and recommendations given in the interim and final reports<sup>4</sup>. Within the present consumer project, all relevant documents of a selection of 25 consumer-relevant preparatory studies will be analysed, and members of the consortium will participate in the respective interim and final stakeholder meetings of the preparatory studies to present the consumer views<sup>5</sup>.
- *Communication of preparatory work:* Reports on the outcomes of the stakeholder meetings and 'Consumer Briefings', summarising key issues of consumer relevance, will be prepared for each selected EuP product group.
- *Coordination of input to the preparatory work:* based on the technical follow-up and the prepared documents, the consumer organisations' views will be communicated at the product-specific (interim and final) Stakeholder Meetings, and the final common position of consumer organisations will be published and communicated in the Consultation Forum (see section 1).

This consortium project will also ensure regular coordination and information exchange with the Lot E members.

A website for this project will be set up by Öko-Institut by the end of 2007.

The following figure shows the current consumer prioritisation of the existing product-specific preparatory studies.

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<sup>4</sup> The product specific stakeholder meetings shall ensure the consideration of the opinion and expert knowledge of interested parties in the course of the preparatory studies.

<sup>5</sup> Please see the document "Project on Consumer Representation in the European Eco-design of Energy-using Products Process – General Consumer-Related Aspects of (energy-using) Products" published on the project website ([www.eupconsumer.eu](http://www.eupconsumer.eu)).

<b>Preparatory studies</b>	<b>Website</b>
Lot 1 Boilers	<a href="http://www.ecoboiler.org/">http://www.ecoboiler.org/</a>
Lot 2 Water Heaters	<a href="http://www.ecohotwater.org/">http://www.ecohotwater.org/</a>
Lot 3 Computers	<a href="http://www.ecocomputer.org/">http://www.ecocomputer.org/</a>
Lot 4 Imaging Equipment	<a href="http://www.ecoimaging.org/">http://www.ecoimaging.org/</a>
Lot 5 Televisions	<a href="http://www.ecotelevision.org/">http://www.ecotelevision.org/</a>
Lot 6 Stand-by	<a href="http://www.ecostandby.org/">http://www.ecostandby.org/</a>
Lot 7 Battery chargers / PSU	<a href="http://www.ecocharger.org/">http://www.ecocharger.org/</a>
Lot 8 Office Lighting	<a href="http://www.eup4light.net/">http://www.eup4light.net/</a>
Lot 9 Street Lighting	<a href="http://www.eup4light.net/">http://www.eup4light.net/</a>
Lot 10 Residential Room Conditioning	<a href="http://www.ecoaircon.eu/">http://www.ecoaircon.eu/</a>
Lot 11 Motors, pumps, fans	<a href="http://www.ecomotors.org">http://www.ecomotors.org</a>
Lot 12 Commercial freezers	<a href="http://www.ecofreezercom.org/">http://www.ecofreezercom.org/</a>
Lot 13 Domestic freezers	<a href="http://www.ecocold-domestic.org/">http://www.ecocold-domestic.org/</a>
Lot 14 Dishwashers/washing machines	<a href="http://www.ecowet-domestic.org/">http://www.ecowet-domestic.org/</a>
Lot 15 Solid fuel small combustion machines	<a href="http://www.ecosolidfuel.org/">http://www.ecosolidfuel.org/</a>
Lot 16 Laundry dryers	not set up yet
Lot 17 Vacuum cleaners	not set up yet
Lot 18 Set top boxes	<a href="http://www.ecocomplexstb.org">http://www.ecocomplexstb.org</a>
Simple Set top boxes	<a href="http://www.ecostb.com/">http://www.ecostb.com/</a>
Lot 19 Domestic lighting	<a href="http://www.eup4light.net">http://www.eup4light.net</a>

Figure 1 Current preparatory studies in the EuP process

The green (yellow / red) highlighted product groups have been considered by ANEC and BEUC to be of high (medium / low) relevance for private consumers. The project will thus focus on the product groups highlighted in green (and yellow)<sup>6</sup>. Whereas the preparatory studies in lots 1 to 14 are already almost finished, the work in lots 15 to 19 has only started recently or is to be started in the near future. In most lots, however, the Consultation Forum meetings, where possible eco-design requirements are discussed amongst all interested parties, have not taken place yet. This gives consumer organisations the opportunity to bring forth their views at the meetings, before implementing measures are set.

### 3 Roles of the partners

Within the Consortium, each partner has specific tasks and responsibilities. Öko-Institut coordinates the project as a whole and serves as the technical consultant, briefing the consumer organisations, represented by ANEC and BEUC, about the consumer-relevant technical aspects of the preparatory studies and the subsequent working documents (draft implementing measures) delivered by the European Commission. CBS and ICRT contribute with their scientific and technical expertise to these Consumer Briefings, to assist ANEC and BEUC in comprehensively considering all consumer-relevant aspects. ANEC and BEUC represent the consumer interest in the Consultation Forum and participate in the relevant meetings. Öko-Institut, ICRT and CBS may also participate in the Consultation Forum

<sup>6</sup> Please note that this is a preliminary choice and might be adapted during the course of the project.

meetings to provide ANEC and BEUC with additional technical expertise during the meetings.

The following figure summarises the roles and tasks of the members of the consortium.

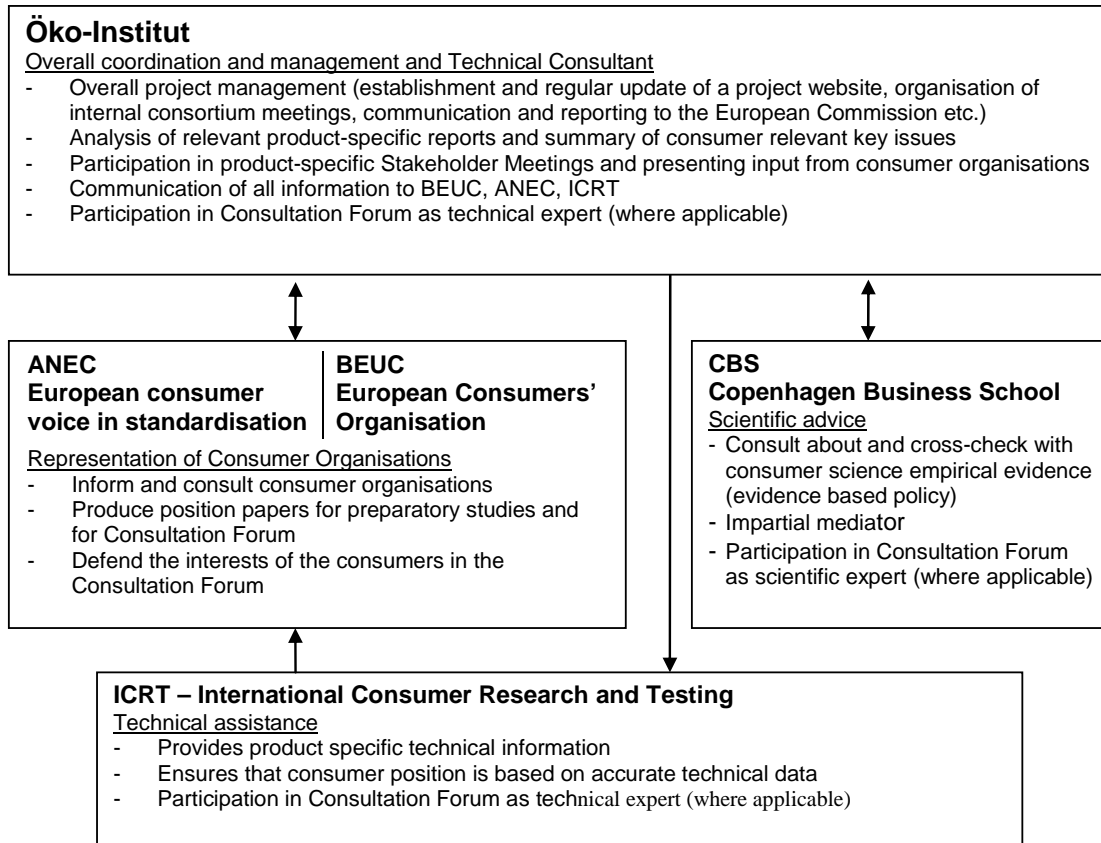


Figure 2 Roles and tasks of the members of the consortium