



Brussels, 12 March 2021

To the attention of:

Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans

Cc:

Commissioner Kadri Simson
Commissioner Thierry Breton
Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius

RE: Environmental NGOs and repair groups call for a significant increase in resources dedicated to the development of EU Ecodesign and Energy Labelling policies

Dear Executive Vice-President Timmermans,

The EU's 2030 55% GHG reduction target and circular economy ambitions will not be met without an immediate and significant increase in Commission resources directed to the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling policies. These policies are responsible for achieving a quarter of the EU's emissions reduction targets to date, and nearly half of the EU's 2020 energy savings – all while generating savings for consumers, bringing about new jobs and revenue for EU businesses¹. Moreover, the Ecodesign framework also has a proven track record in delivering on circular economy objectives by making products easier to repair, reuse and recycle.

We therefore find it regrettable that the development of the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling policies, including for critical high impact product groups such as heating appliances and consumer electronics, is characterised by chronic delays.

For example:

- No new implementing measures have been adopted since 2019 in spite of the fact that well over a dozen existing regulations have reviews pending;
- The Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Working Plan 2020-2024 is expected to be adopted with a two-year delay and none of the new product groups identified in the previous Working Plan have seen dedicated measures adopted to date.

This in large part due to severe staff shortages. The European Court of Auditors highlighted the lack of human and other resources being made available by the European Commission already last year².

Echoing the recent calls by the European Parliament and the Member States, we call on the Commission to ensure that the current backlog of Ecodesign and Energy Labelling measures is addressed immediately by significantly increasing the resources available to all the services involved - DG ENER, DG ENV and DG GROW - to ensure that it delivers on climate and circular economy objectives and contributes to a fair transition by enabling EU citizens to save on their bills.

Given the urgency and importance of the matter, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this with you or the relevant cabinet staff at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Justin Wilkes,
ECOS Executive Director

Jeremy Wates,
Secretary General, EEB

¹ *Ecodesign Impacts Accounting: Status Report*, European Commission, 2018

² *Special Report: Ecodesign and energy labels*, European Court of Auditors, 2020