



Brussels, 7 December 2004
TREN.D.1 AB D/(2004)

MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ENERGY STAR BOARD (ECESB)
BRUSSELS – 03 DECEMBER 2004
DRAFT MINUTES

Chairman: L. Werring, TREN.D.1.

1 Adoption of the agenda

The Agenda was adopted. The UK requested to address the issue of the database under AOB and the EFTA Secretariat announced that the EFTA countries did sign an agreement with the US EPA with a view to join the Energy Star Programme. The Commission will act as management entity for the EEA. Representatives of the EEA-EFTA countries will be welcome to attend the ECESB meetings as observers.
No comment was made by any ECESB member.

2 Adoption of the minutes of the meeting 26 09 2003

The minutes of the 26th September 2003 meeting were adopted, with the addition of the following text:

“The German delegation expressed understanding for the importance of specifications which are acceptable to the producers. On the other hand, EICTA’s criticism of an ‘elitist approach’ was not in line with the clear mandate given by the Council and the European Parliament to the Commission and the ECESB, explicitly referring to an ambitious market share of about 25% (as defined in the Working Plan). Due to this clear political mandate the Commission and the delegations have little room for specifications which imply higher market shares from the very beginning.”

3 Composition of the EC Energy Star Board

Commission Decision 2003/168/EC¹ establishing the ECESB will be updated to take enlargement into account. Member States are therefore required to confirm² the details of their competent authority(ies), including the name of the person who will be their national representative within the ECESB.

¹ OJ L67 of 12.3.2003, p.22

² No need to react for those Member States for which the existing data in the Decision are correct

4 Adoption of the draft revised technical specifications for computer monitors (part II of Annex C to the Agreement):

The Commission informed the ECESB that the written procedure for the formal adoption of the new technical specifications for monitors would take place in the following days, ending with the exchange of letters between the EC and the US EPA and the publication of the amended Annex C part II in the Official Journal (19 languages).

5 Views of the Members of the ECESB on the plans to revise the technical specifications for imaging equipment:

The Commission reported on the first discussions within the technical sub-group of EU Experts which was held in Ispra (JRC) on 11 November. The first phase is looking into the testing method which will include “active mode”. Categorization of products is to be further refined. EICTA noted that the main concern was to avoid users to disable the energy savings modes due to too long “recovery time”. The Chairman reminded EICTA that they are invited to communicate their input to the Commission/ECSEB rather than directly (and only) to EPA.

6 Views of the Members of the ECESB on the plans to revise the technical specifications for computers:

The Commission reported on the first discussions within the technical sub-group of EU Experts which was held in Ispra (JRC) on 11 November. There was general agreement on the inclusion of the “on-mode”. The discussion also covered the possible testing methods and in particular the use of benchmarks (this will be assessed by a working group set up by EPA and open to EU experts), categorization of computers, possible exclusion of servers. The EU experts will prepare a document exploring the various options concerning the above points.

For both Imaging equipment and Computers, the next meeting of the sub-groups is planned for January with a view to try identifying the possible options and report to the ECESB (which will be consulted either in a meeting or in writing) for preparing input for the discussions to be held mid-March 2005 in Washington.

7 Comments of the ECESB on the updated Energy Star Working Plan

7.1 The revised version (25 10 2004) of the Working Plan was supported by the ECESB with the following remarks:

- Support from national representatives to the WP was not to be considered as implicit support for the renewal
- It was highlighted that the main purpose of the WP was to provide a regular update of activities. To submit the WP to the Council and to the Parliament on a yearly basis would require procedures –including translation in 19 languages – which would be longer than the periodicity of the report. The Council would then be supposed to draw conclusions and EP to adopt resolutions on that WP, resulting in an institutional process becoming disproportionate to the aim.

- Several ECESB Members expressed their congratulations for the quality of the dedicated Energy Star website
- It was proposed to add on the website complementary actions such as market surveillance and public procurement by the Member States.

7.2 Preparation by the ECESB of the report on the market penetration of products bearing the common logo and on the technology available for reducing energy consumption (Art 8.2 of Reg EC N°2422/2001)

The chairman reminded that such report was supposed to be issued by the ECESB each year; however like the WP, such frequency was considered too burdensome in practice. The chairman proposed to the ECESB - who accepted - that a report should be issued and used in the context of the assessment of the 5 years period of existence of the EC Energy Star programme. He noted that the main input on data regarding market penetration should be best provided by EICTA whose representatives gave a favourable reply of principle. The UK and IRL representatives also accepted to participate in the drafting of the report.

7.3 Preparation by the Commission of the evaluation report of the effectiveness of the Energy Star programme in the framework of the revision and renewal of the Agreement (Art 14 of Reg EC N°2422/2001)

The Commission presented preliminary conclusions on the functioning of the programme following the stakeholders consultation workshop in Frankfurt (April 2004) and recent developments.

The ECESB largely shared those conclusions highlighting that:

- Office equipment is one of the main raising sectors in energy demand with a high potential for savings. The Energy Star programme is considered the best EC instrument to catch that potential.
- The effectiveness of any energy efficiency scheme for office equipment depends on its ability to follow fast moving technology developments. The current EC process for revising and adopting new technical specifications is not suitable; human resources allocated by the Commission to the management of the EC programme are considered insufficient.
- The success of the Energy Star programme lies in its strategic positioning which favours an inclusive approach, leaving the possibility to a large share of the market to reach the required levels; it therefore requires frequent upgrades of the eligibility criteria.
- As such it does not justify requiring Member States to invest in promotion activities such as publicity campaigns for raising consumer awareness; however it is an appropriate tool for national action like public procurement, in particular with the help of the future database

which should allow identifying the best efficiency levels. The reliability and update of the database will therefore be essential.

- The overall conclusion of the ECESB was to support continuation of the Agreement but streamlined to improve on the points mentioned above³.

The chairman accepted requests to include in the assessment report:

- Information on market surveillance (input from ECESB Members needed) and some statistics on visits to the website
- A chapter to consider what would have happened without participation of the EC to the Energy Star programme. EICTA invited to comment on the added value of the EC to be a partner to US EPA in the programme and in particular in the setting of new specifications.

Additional remarks made:

- EICTA welcomed general support from the ECESB; Energy Star is considered as a worldwide benchmark by the industry.
- Higher frequency of ECESB meetings would increase sense of “ownership”, enhance experience sharing and better use of delegation limited resources

8 AOB

The chairman confirmed that the data in the website are public domain. They are reliable and updated as regards products available on the EU market.

Participants: DE, AT, CY, EE, FI, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, UK, SE

EICTA, GEEA, WWF

EFTA Secr & N

³ Except IT who favours keeping the existing process for adopting new technical specifications