

## ▲ Energy Star label programme reviewed

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Representatives of EU member states, industries, environmental NGOs, the US environmental protection agency and the European Commission met in Frankfurt last week to assess successes and failures of the Energy Star ecolabel. The US-devised scheme sets voluntary minimum standards for the energy efficiency of computers and other office equipment. It was adopted by the EU in 2001 ([ED 18/12/01](#)).

Most participants agreed that the Energy Star was "a good instrument to achieve energy savings, although some improvements could be made", a European Commission spokesperson told Environment Daily. Certain burdensome procedures would benefit from simplification, he added, but there were no immediate plans from the Commission to propose any specific amendments.

Registration of ten leading manufacturers and the setting up of a database of products open to public consultation were among the programme's greatest achievements, the Commission's Luc Werring told conference delegates. Slow progress on revising product specifications, and in particular "little response" from member states, were its weakest points.

Environmental group WWF's Jean-Philippe Denruyter called the scheme "a great step in the right direction", praising its international appeal and its ability to get companies on board. He called, however, for a strengthening of equipment criteria and for the EU to more actively promote ambitious targets.

Criticism of the label's standards and its perceived lack of ambition was expressed last year by certain members of the Energy Star board ([ED 13/10/03](#)).

**Follow-up:** See the Energy Star [web pages](#), including conference presentations.



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