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## **“Indicative” targets not enough to convince the public sector to make the switch to energy efficient products**

### **ELC Comments on the Council’s Common Position on the Proposed Directive on Energy End-use Efficiency and Energy Services<sup>1</sup>**

As the representative of companies manufacturing 95% of all European-produced lamps, the ELC<sup>2</sup> is actively promoting measures to improve energy efficiency through increased take-up of energy efficient lamps in the EU. ELC believes that the European public sector can and should be encouraged to play a leadership role in this endeavor.

By proposing binding targets to reduce public sector energy consumption, the proposal for a Directive on the promotion of end-use efficiency and energy services paves the way for the public sector in each Member State to do just that. However the recent Common Position of the Council<sup>3</sup>, rejecting the European Parliament’s recommendation for higher targets<sup>4</sup> and opting for indicative targets with no legally enforceable obligation, guts the proposal of its ability to make significant, rapid progress in the right direction.

#### **Why binding targets for public authorities?**

Millions of inefficient lamps light up Europe’s public offices, historical buildings, schools, streets and public spaces, adversely affecting the environment by wasting large amounts of energy and producing unnecessary quantities of CO<sub>2</sub><sup>5</sup>. But instead of leading the switch to energy efficient lighting, the EU’s public sector is still lagging behind. Why is this?

A wide range of energy efficient street lamps are already being marketed in the EU. These products are available, affordable and appropriate for European public purchasers - but unfortunately the majority of them are not aware of or do not act upon the available choices of energy-efficient alternatives.

As most lamps are selected on the basis of light output and initial cost requirements, the only way to convince and encourage contracting authorities to examine how they can minimize the energy use of Street Lighting is through mandatory measures which directly influence their purchasing and consumption patterns. Given the small number of purchasers involved in the public sector compared to those in private homes, offices and the retail sector, targeted measures in this area can be highly effective - and in a relatively short time scale.

The ELC therefore calls on the European Parliament to reject the Council’s Common Position and insist on **separate and binding targets** for the European public sector under the Proposed Directive on Energy End-use Efficiency and Energy Services. If the EU’s Member States are serious about their international commitments to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, as well as doing so in a way that enhances competitiveness, they should set an example in the area directly under their control. Binding targets on public sector energy efficiency are a litmus test of this commitment and ELC urges the Parliament to continue to press for them.

<sup>1</sup> COM(2003) 739 final

<sup>2</sup> The members of ELC are Aura, GE, LEUCI, NARVA, OSRAM, Philips and Sylvania. These companies employ 50,000 people in Europe and account for 5 billion Euro European turnover.

<sup>3</sup> 2003/0300 (COD)

<sup>4</sup> For at least 4.5% per year in the first three years following the entry into force of the Directive

<sup>5</sup> A 250W street lamp, if lit for 7 hours a day (during the hours of darkness) can single-handedly produce up to 1 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> a year - enough to fill a hot air balloon 10 metres in diameter, or fill 2 ½ double decker buses.