

Did you know...

...that modern light sources support the European Lisbon Agenda?

Meeting in Lisbon in 2000, European leaders set themselves the goal of making the EU a dynamic, knowledge-based economy by 2010. The Lisbon strategy aims to help the EU to develop and grow in a responsible and sustainable manner, whilst integrating key the aspects of the economic growth, ecological balance and social progress.

More than half way through this period, most observers agree that the associated objectives of 3% average economic growth per annum; the creation of 20 million jobs along will not be met by the target date. There is nonetheless, much continued interest to achieve quick progress on all fronts - and the lamp industry is at the forefront of those in the European Union working to help deliver these improvements.

Leading edge innovation – our track record

The member companies of the ELC¹ have a forward looking approach to their business and for decades have been at the forefront of strategic investments in research, development and innovation – key components of the ‘Lisbon’ strategy. From a Lisbon perspective, lamps can be seen as a key success story for Europe; these companies employ over 50,000 people throughout Europe in 25 member states and have a collective European turnover of 5 billion Euro. Europe is also one of the largest exporters of lamps (in terms of value), accounting for approximately 30% of the global lamp market.² And the ELC members’ market share in Europe and North America accounts for 70% of the annual turnover.

We also realise that economic prosperity needs to function within the wider concepts of sustainable development, which results in social and environmental gains. The ELC and its member companies are working actively to benefit current and future generations to contribute to a more sustainable environment and a better quality of lighting.

Our aim is to achieve a triple win by:

- Achieving wins for the environment through accounting for product life cycle in design;
- Delivering social wins through the benefits of light sources in terms of health and safety in the work place and at home; and
- Sustaining economic wins for the end user and our member companies.



Lighting the Way – How switching to energy efficiency lighting technology is THE example of how to achieve the Lisbon Goals in practice

If there is one area in which the goals of the Lisbon strategy can be matched, it is in the area of energy efficiency. According to the European Commission³, the EU has an energy saving potential of 20% by 2020 taking into account measures already implemented by Member States. This could have a direct impact on the competitiveness of European economies.

The ELC can demonstrate practical examples⁴ to achieve lower energy costs and a reduction in the climate change contribution from light sources. From this practical experience, the ELC can highlight areas to deliver further

growth from innovation; and the associated financial savings to government, businesses and individual citizens.

Energy efficient lamps can reduce energy consumption by as much as 80% and can last between 5 and 30 times longer than conventional equivalents. By simply changing consumer behavior and improving the uptake of energy efficient technologies, like energy efficiency lamps, the ELC believes that the EU can make a major contribution to EU competitiveness, employment and sustainability, which are central objectives of the Lisbon agenda, in a cost effective way.

There are very good economic reasons for the EU to promote energy efficiency.

- The EU could save an estimated 4.3 billion euro in running costs through energy efficient lighting each year, this equates to the output of 12 medium sized power plants or 28 megatons of CO₂ or more than 50 million barrels of oil annually. The money saved is available to be spent on the local economy, stimulating local economic development and job creation.
- Demonstrating the benefits of energy efficient lighting technology creates new demand not only for lamps for other environmentally-friendly goods and services, allowing Europe's manufacturers to experience growth in their business, ensuring Europe's competitiveness.

- There is a positive link between energy efficiency and jobs in the lamp industry; a shift towards more innovation means investment in skills for workers and the chance to enhance further knowledge on products and technologies for the future.

Our desire to continue our tradition of innovation is based upon strategic investment in R&D; which is matched by our enthusiasm to share the facts and the lessons of this experience to the EU. At the Spring Council March 2006, it was confirmed that the EU faces a number of challenges to ensure energy efficiency occurs in practice. Should these challenges be left un-addressed there are direct implications on the EU in terms of environment, jobs, knowledge and growth potential.

We hope positive action will occur through the policy-makers and others involved, recognising the merits of our triple win model that has enabled our companies to thrive to date, and to implement practical measures to assist further innovation in the market place.

¹ ELC members: are Aura, GE, LEUCI, NARVA, OSRAM, Philips and Sylvania.
² UN (2005) *Commodity Trade Statistics Database*, United Nations Statistics Division, <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/comtrade> : HS2002 code 8539
³ Spring Council - Presidency Conclusions March 2006
⁴ For more information about how the ELC is helping Europe to make the switch see: www.elcfed.org (Climate Change and Energy Efficiency)



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