



Press Release

For immediate release

Question: How many Commissioners does it take to change a light bulb..?

**Answer: Thankfully 1.
Europe's lamp industry applauds Commissioner Piebalg's new Energy Efficiency Action Plan**

Brussels, 19 October: The European Lamp Companies Federation (ELC) today praised the Commission's new and *improved* version of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan (EEAP) for Europe.

"We are delighted to see that making products more energy efficient is the Commission's first priority", said Gerald Strickland, Secretary General of the European Lamp Companies Federation. *"At the global level, lighting products currently consume more electricity than is produced by either hydro or nuclear power and results in CO₂ emissions equivalent to about 70% of the world's cars¹" - the potential for energy saving is huge'.*

Lighting is one of the few markets where although a great deal of new technology exists; old technology is still on the market. Measures to help consumers to make informed purchasers are outlined in the plan. This is critical because market forces and voluntary measures by the lighting industry are not enough.

"The EUP Directive is a central tool to transform the market for energy using products and we are glad to see that this is at the top of the Commission's agenda", says Strickland. *"It is **crucial** that the forthcoming Implementing Measures proceed thriftily, targeting inefficient street lighting such as High Pressure Mercury and Standard Phosphor lamps in offices as the areas of highest potential for CO₂ reduction. We want to see the same level of commitment from the Member States also, the Directive must be implemented quickly and effectively, if it is not then we are missing out on a HUGE potential".*

The ELC today pledges to offer a couple of free lighting audits for office buildings housing DGs Energy and DG Enterprise in early 2007.

More than 75% of the EU's office lighting is still inefficient according to the ELC, who want the Commission to show real commitment to leading by example. This is an estimated waste of 1 billion euros in energy costs each year which equates 8 million tons of CO₂, the equivalent to the CO₂ consumption of 300 million trees and the output of 6 large power stations.

"We urge Commissioners Piebalgs and Verheugen to show that improvements in energy efficiency through lighting are possible immediately and also deliver real results", said Strickland. *"These improvements are cost effective and are available **today**. Our experts are waiting in the wings to show the Commission and others how easy it is to make immediate and impressive savings".*

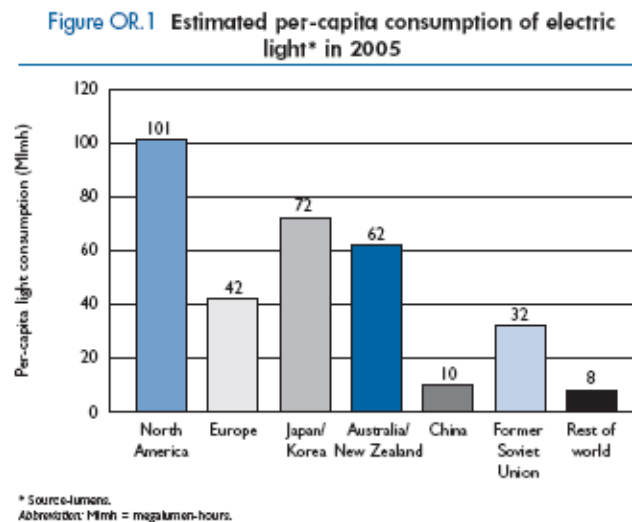
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¹ *Light's Labour's Lost" – Policies for Energy-efficient Lighting – International Energy Agency*

Notes to the Editor

About energy efficient lighting

- Europe's average consumption of electric light per capita stood at 42 Mlmh per capita in 2005².



Source: *Light's Labour's Lost* – Policies for Energy-efficient Lighting – International Energy Agency

If all lighting across Europe were switched to from energy inefficient to the latest efficient technology, it would save per year:

- 4.3 billion euros running costs
- 28 million tons of CO₂
- More than 50 million barrels of oil
- Equivalent CO₂ consumption of more than 1 billion trees
- Output of 12 medium sized power plants

About the ELC

The ELC is the representative of companies manufacturing 95% of all European lamps. The members of ELC are Aura, BLV, GE, NARVA, OSRAM, Philips and Sylvania.

These companies employ 50,000 people in Europe and account for 5 billion Euro European turnover.

For more about energy efficient lighting see: www.elcfed.org

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² *Light's Labour's Lost* – Policies for Energy-efficient Lighting – International Energy Agency