

Press release

For Immediate release

The lights are on, but is anyone at home..?

Remember to switch off your lights! This is the message sent today to EU Energy Ministers by Europe's lamp producers.

Ministers will today adopt conclusions on the recently published Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Europe, which pledges to save 20% energy by 2020. In the plan, the Commission has pledged to **lead by example** and demonstrate energy efficiency in all the EU buildings by 2009¹. The Council's conclusions will also state that the "**public sector should fulfil an exemplary role**".

"If the EEAP is going to mean anything then the EU institutions, Member States as well as other public bodies need to show commitment to lead by example by switching their lights off", said Gerald Strickland, Secretary General of the European Lamp Companies Federation (ELCⁱ). "Yet it seems that several of the EU's institutions still do not switch off their lights at night."

The following photo of the Council of Ministers Justus Lipsius building was taken at **1.57am on November 10th** during an exercise by the Europe's Lamp Producers (ELC) to identify EU institutional buildings where changes to energy efficient lighting technology would be beneficial. The intention is to offer two EU institution buildings a free lighting audit in 2007.

Has Christmas come early to the European Council...?



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"The Council, Parliament and the Committee of the Regions need to do better", says Strickland. "We are happy to say that DG Transport and Energy is leading by example with only one visible light left on that evening".

"Lighting consumes 14% of all electricity consumption within the EU and 19% of global electricity consumption². Office lighting, like the lighting used in many of the EU's buildings is a key contributor", says Strickland.

ENDS

¹ COM (2006)545 final (pg 19) - "Energy efficiency starts at home.....".

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

Notes to the Editor

ⁱ The ELC is the representative of companies manufacturing 95% of all European lamps. The members of ELC are Aura, BLV, GE, LEUCI, NARVA, OSRAM, Philips and Sylvania. These companies employ 50,000 people in Europe and account for 5 billion Euro European turnover.

Other photos are available to download at : www.elcfed.org

Beyond using energy efficient lighting systems, there are simple things that the EU's public sector can do to save significant energy:

- Turn off all the lights when leaving a room at night – and/or use lighting controls (such as presence detectors and daylight controls) to achieve this effect automatically
- Reduce light levels in unused areas (e.g. corridor and store rooms) and turn off signage and other lights not necessary for security and safety
- Use external lighting to highlight the features of the building rather than internal fluorescent lighting

Facts about lighting

- “Lighting requires as much electricity as is produced by all gas-fired generation and 15% more than produced by either hydro or nuclear power”.
Light's Labour's Lost – Policies for Energy-efficient Lighting. IEA

ELC figures show that:

- If all Europe's lighting were switched from energy inefficient to the latest technology this would deliver annual savings of 59 Million tons of CO₂ and 13.4 Billion euros.
- More than 75% of the EU's office lighting is still inefficient
- The current switch over rate of office lighting is 7% per year
- The average life-time of office lighting installations = 25 years
- There are huge differences in efficiency between old and new office lighting systems (and the energy saving potential of upgrading to energy efficient equivalents is between 30-80%)

“You Control Climate Change”:

The EU's most recent public campaign to convince Europeans that they can help stop climate changeⁱ urges Europeans to; “Switch off the lights when you don't need them. Switching off 5 lights in hallways and rooms in your house when you don't need them can save around € 60 a year and avoid about 400kg of CO₂ emissions per year.”

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/campaign/switchoff_en.htm

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