



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 30 May 2012**

**10494/12**

**ENER 197  
COTRA 20**

**INFORMATION NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat of the Council

to: Delegations

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Subject: "Energy Star"

- (i) Proposal for a Regulation on a European Union energy-efficiency labelling programme for office equipment amending Regulation (EC) No 106/2008 on a Community energy-efficiency labelling programme for office equipment ("Energy Star")
- (ii) Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the European Union on the co-ordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment ("Energy Star")

- *Information from the Presidency*

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1 Following the conclusion of the negotiations with the United States on the new "Energy Star" agreement between the United States and the EU relating to energy-efficient office equipment, the Commission presented the above proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement<sup>1</sup> on 15 March 2012. This Agreement aims to continually reduce - using its flexible and dynamic policy framework - the energy consumption of office equipment such as computers, displays, printers, copiers, scanners *et cetera*. It will cover another 5-year period and takes into account the experience gained during the two first periods (2001-2010).

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<sup>1</sup> doc. 7769/12 ENER 98 COTRA 9

The programme has been very successful in reducing the energy consumption of office equipment - not least because of the use of "Energy Star" requirements in public procurement, and because of the synergy achieved by the setting of joint energy efficiency specifications by the European Union and the United States. One of the main changes of the new Agreement is that the United States will introduce a system of certification by third parties, whereas in the European Union the system of self-certification by participating enterprises will remain.

A political agreement on the text of the draft Council Decision to sign and conclude the Agreement<sup>2</sup> was reached on 14 May. Following finalisation of the text of the draft Decision by the lawyer-linguists, in early June the Council is expected to issue its request for the consent of the European Parliament on the signing and conclusion of the Agreement.

2. As regards the above proposal for the Regulation that "implements" the Agreement in the EU<sup>3</sup>, the Council Energy Working Party has already indicated that the Commission proposal as received on 15 March is acceptable. Council is therefore currently awaiting the views of the European Parliament and the timetable of its rapporteur Mr. Béla Kovács, and is hopeful that a rapid first reading agreement can be achieved.

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<sup>2</sup> See doc. 9293/12 ENER 142 COTRA 14

<sup>3</sup> doc. 7775/12 ENER 99 COTRA 10 CODEC 688