To:
Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, Mr. Frans Timmermans
Commissioner for Energy, Ms. Kadri Simson
Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Mr. Virginijus Sinkevicius
Commissioner for the Internal Market, Mr. Thierry Breton

OPEN LETTER

Subject: Regulatory approach to the Sustainable Products Initiative

Dear Executive Vice-President and Commissioners,

We the undersigned are writing to you as participants in the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Consultation Forum (EECLF) and other associations active in the framework of EU energy related products (ErP), to ask for an open dialogue on constructively addressing sustainable products policy, in the context of the recently published open public consultation on the Sustainable Products Initiative (SPI).

Our message in a nutshell:

Our associations recognise the imperative of complementing the decarbonisation objectives under the European Green Deal (EGD) with efforts to improve the environmental sustainability of products. The Commission has indicated that it has been politically decided that the scope of the Ecodesign Directive is to be widened to include non-ErP, in addition to the ErP currently within the scope of the Directive. Should the Ecodesign methodology be applied to non-ErP products, we believe that the legislation should be sensitive to the differences between ErP and non-ErP products. We believe that a one-size-fits-all approach should not be the way forward.

The importance of the Ecodesign Directive:

The EU's ErP regulatory framework, of which the Ecodesign Directive is a part, has been a successful driver of energy efficiency improvements in home appliances, lighting, heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration (HVACR) equipment. In reducing energy consumption, ErP compliant products are a significant contributor to decarbonisation and thus to the European Green Deal's objective to achieve a climate neutral economy by 2050. Much of this success can be attributed to the clear and relatively simple methodology, based on a combination of key principles among which the Least Life Cycle Cost (LLCC), under which the final cost for the consumer is the driving factor is a fundamental guiding principle.

Further improving the Ecodesign Directive:

Whilst the Ecodesign Directive is undoubtedly a regulatory success story for the Commission in delivering on decarbonisation objectives, it can be further improved. The European Court of Auditors (ECA) Special Report 01/20 identified delays as a key factor in undermining the Directive[1]. Indeed, persistent delays with the adoption and revision of implementing regulations continue to slow down progress to achieve further energy efficiency savings. There have also been examples of inconsistency with other pieces of

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[1] https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR20_01/SR_Ecodesign_and_energy_labels_EN.pdf

legislation, such as the problems encountered with the energy labelling measures and the technical inconsistencies. There should continue to be open and transparent dialogue including technical exchanges with stakeholders and commitment to apply the principles of Better Regulation. Especially at the final stages of regulation approval, it is important to ensure that there are no crucial amendments introduced without consultation, impact assessment or opportunities to adapt the amendments. Moreover, market surveillance remains a key area to be improved. Expanding the Ecodesign Directive to include non-ErP products may further exacerbate these issues.

Our suggested way forward:

As stated, our associations recognise the value of the Ecodesign regulatory approach. We also welcome the opportunity to strengthen sustainability aspects in the contest of the ongoing review of the Methodology for the Ecodesign of Energy related Products (MEErP). However, approaches that may be appropriate for ErP products may not automatically be applicable or transferable to non-ErP, in the same way that approaches developed for individual ErP product categories are not automatically applicable to other ErP product categories. This diversity must be acknowledged in the new MEErP.

It is the right moment for a constructive dialogue:

Our associations support the objectives of the European Green Deal and would like to open a constructive dialogue to elaborate the most efficient way forward, taking into account the importance of addressing sustainability criteria while strengthening rather than putting at risk the success of the Ecodesign framework, of which open dialogue has always been a key feature of success. Given the Commission's indicative timeline to adopt the legislative proposal in Q4 2021 we would appreciate opening such dialogue at the earliest opportunity.

Kind regards,

Mr. Paolo Falcioni
Director General of APPLiA – Home Appliance Europe

Ms. Federica Sabbati
Director General of EHI – European Heating Industry

Ms. Andrea Voigt
Director General of the EPEE – European Partnership for Energy and the Environment

Mr. Klaus-Dieter Axt
Head of Brussels Office for EUnited – European Engineering Industries Association

Mr. Felix van Eyken
Secretary General of Eurovent – Association for Indoor Climate (HVAC), Process Cooling, and Food Cold Chain Technologies

Mr. Russell Patten
Secretary General of EVIA – European Ventilation Industry Association

Dr. Peter Hug
Managing Director of eu.bac – European Building Automation and Controls Association

Mr. Bas Spekreijse
Chairman IG Infrared International

Mr. Lasse Alsterberg
Chairman of EUHA – Electric Underfloor Heating Alliance

Ms. Ourania Georgoutsakou
Secretary General of LightingEurope

APPLiA - Home Appliance Europe:
APPLiA represents home appliance manufacturers from across Europe. By promoting innovative, sustainable policies and solutions for EU homes, APPLiA has helped build the sector into an economic powerhouse, with an annual turnover of EUR 53 billion, investing over EUR 1.6 billion in R&D activities and creating nearly 1 million jobs. www.applia-europe.eu.

EHI – European Heating Industry:
EHI, the association of the European Heating Industry, represents 90% of the European market for heat and hot water generation, heating controls and heat emitters, as well as 75% of the hydronic heat pump market. Our Members produce advanced technologies for heating in buildings and renewable energy solutions including: heat pumps, solar thermal, biomass heaters, boilers, heating systems, components, radiators, surface heating & cooling. In doing so, we employ directly more than 160.000 people in Europe and invest about 700 million euro a year in energy efficiency. www.ehi.eu

EPEE – European Partnership for Energy and the Environment:
EPEE represents the refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump industry in Europe. Founded in the year 2000, EPEE's membership is composed of over 50 member companies as well as national and international associations from three continents (Europe, North America, Asia). With manufacturing sites and research and development facilities across the EU, which innovate for the global market, EPEE member companies realise a turnover of over 30 billion Euros, employ more than 200,000 people in Europe and also create indirect employment through a vast network of small and medium-sized enterprises such as contractors who install, service and maintain equipment. Please visit our website www.epeeglobal.org and www.countoncooling.eu for information about our sustainable cooling campaign.

eu.bac - European Building Automation and Controls Association:
eu.bac represents the major European manufacturers of products and systems for home and building automation. Its vision is a world where everyone lives in buildings that are smart, decarbonised and efficient. eu.bac founded the European Association of Energy Services Companies (eu.esco) for promoting Energy Performance Contracting as the economically sustainable solution for improving the energy performance of existing buildings using the guaranteed energy savings to pay for the installation. For more information, please visit www.eubac.org.

EUHA – Electric Underfloor Heating Alliance:
EUHA promotes electric underfloor heating as an affordable and efficient part of the solution for the objective of decarbonized buildings within a new smart electricity grid infrastructure. The Alliance brings forward well-performing, higher efficiency electric underfloor heating systems, providing cost-effective, affordable and efficient comfort heating. EUHA works in close cooperation with the EU institutions and other stakeholders while providing information and advice on how to improve the sustainability of the systems. The Electric Underfloor Heating Alliance EUHA stands for building regulations that make the best of the future. www.euha-alliance.eu

EUnited – European Engineering Industries Association
EUnited is the voice of machinery and equipment suppliers in Europe. We speak for the companies which make up the core of Europe's advanced manufacturing capability. They design and produce specialist machinery and equipment operated in advanced factories all over the word to produce, to automate and monitor, to transport, to recycle, to power, as well as for cleaning and maintenance purposes. www.eu-nited.net

Eurovent - Association for Indoor Climate (HVAC), Process Cooling, and Food Cold Chain Technologies:
Eurovent is Europe's Industry Association for Indoor Climate (HVAC), Process Cooling, and Food Cold Chain Technologies. Its members from throughout Europe represent more than 1.000 companies, the majority small and medium-sized manufacturers. Based on objective and verifiable data, these account for a combined annual turnover of more than 30bn EUR, employing around 150.000 people within the association's geographic area. This makes

Eurovent one of the largest cross-regional industry committees of its kind. The organisation's activities are based on highly valued democratic decision-making principles, ensuring a level playing field for the entire industry independent from organisation sizes or membership fees. www.eurovent.eu

EVIA – European Ventilation Industry Association:
The European Ventilation Industry Association (EVIA)'s mission is to represent the views and interests of the ventilation industry and serve as a platform between all the relevant European stakeholders involved in the ventilation sector, such as decision-makers at the EU level as well as our partners in EU Member States. Our membership is composed of more than 40 member companies and 6 national associations across Europe, realising an annual turnover of over 7 billion euros and employing more than 45,000 people in Europe. EVIA aim to promote highly energy efficient ventilation applications across Europe, with high consideration for health and comfort aspects. Fresh and good indoor air quality is a critical element of comfort and contributes to keeping people healthy in buildings. www.evia.eu

IG Infrared International:
IG Infrared is a network of European infrared heating manufacturers that provides interested parties with objective, well-founded information, and works to establish and promote infrared heating in the market. In addition, IG Infrared represents the interests of the infrared heating industry towards the EU institutions to support the development of policy and legislation aimed at facilitating the uptake of energy efficient and comfortable heating. www.ig-infrared.com

LightingEurope:
LightingEurope is the voice of the lighting industry, based in Brussels and representing 30 companies and national associations. Together these members account for over 1,000 European companies, a majority of which are small or medium-sized. They represent a total European workforce of over 100,000 people and an annual turnover exceeding 20 billion euro. LightingEurope is committed to promoting efficient lighting that benefits human comfort, safety and well-being, and the environment. LightingEurope advocates a positive business and regulatory environment to foster fair competition and growth for the European lighting industry. More information is available at www.lightingeurope.org.

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