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Only a small step in the right direction

The Draft EU Ecodesign and Energy Labelling omnibus amendments for home appliances is now open for consultation. The Commission proposals will amend several pieces of legislation due to technical inconsistencies that were found in the texts.

“This is a much welcome and needed action to try and clarify an existing confusion in terminology. The benefit will be twofold: manufacturers will know which values to declare and how to do that, and market surveillance authorities will be able to carry out checks on the market.” commented Paolo Falcioni, APPLiA’s Director General, as soon as the consultation was made open. “Unfortunately, the European Commission proposal does not go the full length”. Still, inconsistencies remain that may jeopardise a clear understanding and application of the legislation.

Another point of major concern was found in the currently enforced light sources Regulations, which represent a case of so-called “double legislation”. These products are in fact subject to energy efficiency requirements twice, once as light sources and again as components of appliances. “Furthermore, rules requiring light sources to be replaceable in home appliances do not consider how home appliances are built today, offering convenience and performances to consumers” continued Paolo Falcioni. “This is a case where legislation, if approved in the current form, would only undermine the accomplished innovation efforts and end up worsening the current state of things.”

The coming weeks will be indispensable for providing comments to amendments of law texts that must represent a solid legislative bedrock for the ecodesign and energy labelling legislation in the EU.

APPLiA - Home Appliance Europe 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.

