

STATEMENT

***Making the EU energy labelling system work for heaters:
Future review needed to encourage energy upgrades for all!***

Brussels, 28 February 2013

Labels indicating the efficiency of our heaters will be a reality as soon as in 2015. The new energy labelling measures for boilers adopted by the European Commission on 18 February 2013 should help promote the most efficient categories of boilers, thus reducing climate impact and energy bills.

Eurofuel promotes best practices in the sustainable use of heating oil for domestic heating, including in combination with renewable energy sources. Therefore we have been very much supportive for the adoption of energy labelling rules for heaters. Our members have long promoted the development of highly efficient and multi-energy hybrid technologies and implemented leading initiatives to help customers modernise their heating systems, rewarding them twice for choosing more efficient options. We are thus pleased to be assisted in these efforts with an EU efficiency labelling system.

In our cooperation with the Commission and other stakeholders over the past years, we have, however, warned against an unintended possible negative impact of the selected ranking system. The addition of an A+++ labelling class after six years will in fact prevent the most efficient condensing boilers powered by oil from reaching a class in the green category. This is all the more regrettable since this situation should also apply to hybrid systems, which combine oil with renewable energy.

For reasons of geographical location (e.g. rural or mountainous areas outside the grid networks) or budget constraints, many consumers are simply not in a position to switch energy sources. As a matter of fact, up to 40% energy savings can be achieved by modernising their heating appliances while keeping their energy source, provided they are incited to do so. Eurofuel is concerned that the proposed labelling scheme will actively discourage people from changing their oil heating systems to high-efficiency condensing boilers due to the artificially low energy ranking in the label for such boilers. This means that many of these households will keep their old inefficient systems in operation.

“Our members throughout Europe have well developed promotional programmes that support oil boiler modernisation and which reflects the EU’s energy efficiency objectives. The labelling scheme being put forward now will undermine these promotional programmes and thereby will, we suggest, run contrary to the EU’s stated policies”, said Prof. Christian Küchen, Eurofuel’s President.

Therefore we will closely monitor the impact of the new scheme on heating system modernisation and alert the EU institutions before the planned review, should our concerns prove to be true. We are confident that the Commission will take these issues into consideration in the course of defining the necessary standards and implementing the measures. We look forward to continuing the good cooperation on this important endeavour and achieving the fairest and most effective labelling system for Europe’s citizens.

Prof. Christian Küchen
President, Eurofuel

Sabine Heyman
Secretary General, Eurofuel

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About Eurofuel

The European Heating Oil Association (Eurofuel) represents the national organisations that promote the use of heating oil for domestic heating in 10 European countries, including over 10,000 companies. Eurofuel is engaged in the promotion of existing and innovative techniques for heating oil and equipment, in the domestic market. In this way, our members are committed to ensuring the competitiveness and efficiency of heating with oil, while also reducing its environmental footprint.

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