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### Agenda and other issues

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## Lighting the Way for a New Approach to Ecolabel Criteria Development

### News—Full article

The Eco-Lighting project is an initiative intended to revise the criteria developed for the EU Ecolabel's and GPP light sources product group which will expire in June 2013. The project will advance the EU Ecolabel toward its goal of establishing 40-50 product groups by 2015. It will be the first non-Member State, stakeholder-led initiative in which the European Commission itself will play a less central role and stakeholders will actively engage in determining relevant and stringent criteria. "We hope we can learn a lot from this project as this could, if successful, help widen the number of Ecolabel criteria over time," said Silvia Ferratini of the European Commission.

"The initiative is the European Commission's first attempt to see how the provisions of its most recent major revision document can be put into action," she added.

The EU Ecolabelling Board (EUEB) voted in favour of the project last year after receiving an application from the selected steering group, the European Lamp Companies Federation (ELC) and other partners. The EUEB felt the ELC embodied a high level of expertise in the product area, as well as the capacity to lead the process with an emphasis on exercising neutrality.

The ELC is a non-profit organisation based in Brussels that consists of a group of the leading lamp manufacturers in Europe. Established in 1985, the ELC contributes 95% of total European lamp production and functions as a lobby



ELC's logo

organisation. Other partners include the [European Council for and Energy Efficient Economy](#) (ECEE) and the Energy Saving Trust.

The project to be headed up by ELC aims to reduce the administrative workload on EU Ecolabel staff at the European Commission and simultaneously contribute to building new product groups and revising old.

The European Commission expects the project to improve accessibility of primary data on products due to direct involvement of major manufacturers of the products. According to Mr. Davide Minotti, seated observer to the steering group at the European Commission, increased availability of data and better ability to revise criteria by involving more stakeholders will help to transform the market towards more sustainable lighting products.

## Interview with Davide Minotti: Seated Observer to the EU Eco-Lighting Project

*Davide Minotti, from the Sustainable Production & Consumption Unit at the European Commission and a seated observer to the steering group for the EU Eco-lighting Project, tells us about the goals set for the project. The European Lamp Companies Federation represents the first stakeholder led criteria revision initiative that is aimed at expanding EU Ecolabel product group development.*

**Q: How was the European Lamp Companies Federation selected for this project? What unique qualities do you think they will bring?**

The European Lamp Companies Federation (ELC) expressed an interest in participating and created a steering group which involved a wider group of stakeholders that extended beyond its own members. After submitting an application to lead the revision of lighting criteria, which was carefully read and considered by the EU Ecolabelling Board (EUEB), the ELC was invited to present their application to the EUEB, and the Board subsequently voted to approve the launch of this project. The EUEB will still need to consider the outcome of the project and clearly the Ecolabel Regulatory Committee will also need to vote in favour of the new criteria proposed by the project, according to the provisions of the Ecolabel Directive.

**Q: What challenges do you anticipate encountering with this project?**

This is a complex, highly technical product group but one that is very visible to consumers. We hope to achieve a number of applications for the

Ecolabel in this product area as a result of this review, in line with the aim of covering 10 – 20% of the market as stated in the Ecolabel Directive. This is in itself will be a significant challenge.

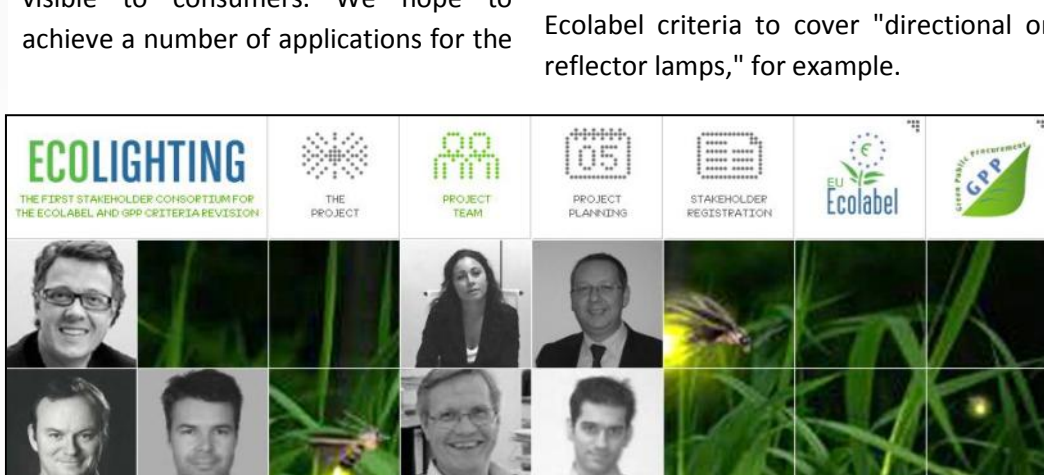
In terms of additional issues for the project, ensuring that the input of all stakeholders is collected and integrated into criteria development will be critical to its successful management. Having a number of stakeholders in the steering group leading the project, including those from outside of the industry, can help to diversify input. Inviting a wider variety of stakeholders to the Ad Hoc Working Groups will also help to achieve and integrate wide-ranging perspectives from different sectors into the development of criteria.

**Q: What improvements to the environmental performance of lighting covered by the criteria do you hope to achieve with this revision?**

Clearly we cannot prejudge the result of this revision but, as with any new criteria and/or revision, we are aiming to transform the market for lighting products by moving it towards more sustainable products and increasing the market penetration and awareness of EU Ecolabelled lighting products.

**Q: Will the current criteria be expanded to include more types of light sources? If so, what kinds?**

Issues of scope are currently under discussion and we could not pre-empt the result of such discussions. Clearly there is room to increase the scope of the current Ecolabel criteria to cover "directional or reflector lamps," for example.



Screenshot from the EU Eco-lighting Project website of the project team

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Represent your business and the EU Ecolabel during the European SME Week, taking place from **15 – 21 October!**

Registrations for events at European SME Week, to take place from **15 – 21 October** are now being accepted! This campaign, coordinated by the European Commission seeks to promote enterprise across Europe and allow professionals to share their experiences. The events and activities span 37 countries on local, national and regional levels.

To organise or attend an event click [here](#). For more information about the European SME Week, click [here](#).

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