



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

Circular economy: Commission expands Ecolabel criteria to computers, furniture and footwear

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The European Commission has adopted a new set of ecological criteria under the existing EU Ecolabel scheme for the product groups of: Furniture, Footwear and Computers.

From now on, manufacturers of footwear, furniture and computers (personal, notebook and tablet computers) who wish to benefit from the EU Ecolabel will have to comply with strict requirements that focus on the environmental performance of the product, but also cover product safety and social aspects.

"The EU Ecolabel promotes Europe's transition to a circular economy, supporting both sustainable production and consumption. Thanks to transparent ecological criteria, consumers can make conscious choices, without compromising on the quality of the products. Similarly, the Ecolabel rewards those manufacturers who choose to design products that are durable and repairable, promoting innovation and saving resources", said Commissioner for Environment Karmenu **Vella**.

For the computer product group, energy efficiency and device upgradability will need to be considered during the design and manufacturing process, along with taking into account how easy it is to dismantle, recover and recycle resources from the devices.

In the case of furniture, in addition to a mandate on producing products that are more durable and easier to repair, the new criteria require manufacturers to conduct a more comprehensive life cycle assessment, while paying special attention to the hazardous compounds and residues, which in some cases could contribute to indoor air pollution.

Special attention is also given to improving Corporate Social Responsibility with regard to labour conditions which will apply to the final footwear assembly site, following the provisions of recognised international labour standards (the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, the UN Global Compact, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multi-National Enterprises).

The criteria revision is valid for six years following its date of adoption.

Background

The EU Ecolabel is a voluntary scheme and a component of the European Commission's action plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production and Sustainable Industrial Policy.

It was established as a way of encouraging manufactures to produce goods and services that are more environmentally friendly. Any good or services that has been awarded the EU Ecolabel meets a set of **high environmental and performance standards**.

The EU Ecolabel has acted as a pioneer in promoting circular economy. From the beginning, its strict product group criteria were already based on the main principles of circular economy: products that have a lower environmental impact and contribute to sustainable development along their life cycle, are energy efficient, durable and repairable.

For more information:

[Commission decision of 10 August 2016 establishing the criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for personal, notebook and tablet computers](#)

[Commission decision of 5 August 2016 establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for footwear](#)

[Commission Decision of 28 July 2016 establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for furniture](#)

[Criteria and development revision page](#)

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