REPLY FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM JAPAN REGARDING NOTIFICATION

G/TBT/N/EU/609

DRAFT COMMISSION REGULATION LAYING DOWN ECODESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRONIC DISPLAYS PURSUANT TO DIRECTIVE 2009/125/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AND REPEALING COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) NO 642/2009

The European Union (EU) would like to thank the Japanese authorities for their comments on the "Draft Commission Regulation laying down ecodesign requirements for electronic displays pursuant to Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 1275/2008 and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) 642/2009" (G/TBT/N/EU/609) (hereinafter, "the notified draft"), notified to the WTO TBT Committee on 9 October 2018.

The EU would like to highlight that the Meeting of the Regulatory Committee on electronic displays which was held on 19 December 2018, introduced a number of changes to the notified draft and voted on the amended text.

The European Commission published the draft implementing measure, as voted, in the Comitology register for scrutiny. The scrutiny period expired on 8 May 2019 without any objection from the Council or the European Parliament. The Commission is now in the process of adopting the voted Regulation.

The EU would like to provide the following replies to the comments received.

1. Limit values

Concerning the issue of limit values, the Regulatory Committee introduced a number of changes that are at least partially responding to the request of Japan. For example, the EU would like to draw the attention of the Japanese authorities to the substantial changes on self-emissive technologies and OLED displays.

2. Application of low power mode to "signage displays" and "interactive white boards"

As regards the Japanese concerns of the need for a standby condition for low power modes for "signage displays", the EU would like to highlight that not all "signage displays" are used 24/7 and therefore they do need a standby condition. For example those "signage displays" installed in venues with a limited access time for visitors (e.g. museums and conference centres) are expected to go into standby when no signal is centrally sent to them, in off-hours.

Concerning the requirements on timing and the switch into standby mode for "digital white boards" and other devices, the draft Commission Regulation refers to "default" values (out-of-the-box) when the products are placed on the market, while specific configuration needs can still be accommodated for.

3. Repair and re-use and end-of-life information

The EU notes that Japan considers the specific information requirements confidential. To this extent, some of these requirements, such as the provision of explosion diagrams and detailed information on chemicals content, have been simplified in the final text, partly by restricting some components considered of particular concern in view of circular economy objectives.

The EU would like to thank the Japanese authorities once again for providing comments on the notified draft and hopes that the responses conveyed sufficiently clarify the points raised.

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