

## **EC adopts standby energy reduction regulation**

The European Commission has adopted the ecodesign regulation to reduce standby energy consumption of all household and office products. The regulation lays down energy efficiency requirements which will cut the standby electricity consumption by almost 75 per cent by 2020. Standby consumes approximately 50 TWh electricity per year in the EU, and the regulation will trigger a reduction by 73 per cent by 2020. The regulation will enter into force in the first quarter of 2009. As of 2010 the standby power consumption of new products has to be less than one Watt or two Watts. These values will be lowered in 2013 to 0.5 Watt and one Watt, which is close to the levels achievable with best available technology. The EC plans to adopt four more ecodesign regulations soon, which have been recently endorsed by the Member States and are currently being scrutinised by the European Parliament and the Council, including the regulation to gradually phase out incandescent light bulbs by 2012.

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