Mobilising information and communication technologies to facilitate the transition to an energy-efficient, low-carbon economy

2009/2228(INI) - 01/03/2010

The Council took note of the outcome of the second edition of the high-level event on information and communication technologies for energy efficiency that took place in Brussels on 23 and 24 February. On 9 October 2009 the Commission adopted a recommendation on this subject.

It recommends that the **Information and Communication Technologies sector**:

- commits to a progressive decarbonisation process leading to a measurable and verifiable reduction in energy intensity and carbon emissions of all processes involved in the production, transport and sales of ICT equipment and components;
- participates, through its sector associations, in an exercise to be initiated by the European Commission that aims to: (a) develop a framework to measure its energy and environmental performance, for which the sector will be expected to contribute the baseline data by 2010;(b) adopt and implement common methodologies to this end by 2011; (c) identify, by 2011, energy efficiency targets that aim to exceed the EU 2020 targets by 2015; (d) issue a roadmap within three months of adoption of this Recommendation, thereafter annual reports;
- works with the European Commission and other relevant public bodies and international organisations in order to develop an auditing and verification framework assessing whether and how energy intensity and carbon emissions reduction targets will be met by individual companies.
- in close cooperation with the buildings and construction sector identifies ICT solutions to improve the environmental and energy performance of new and existing buildings, and construction and renovation practices, leading to a joint roadmap for large-scale adoption of such solutions.
- in close cooperation with the buildings and construction sector addresses barriers to the wider use of ICT modelling and simulation tools and other relevant applications that facilitate and assist compliance with applicable regulatory regimes governing buildings performance.
- in close cooperation with the transport and logistics sector identifies ICT solutions to improve the environmental and energy performance of their services;
- in close cooperation with the transport and logistics sector drafts a systematic framework to provide comprehensive, comparable and reliable data on the energy consumption and carbon emissions of freight and transport operations and services to all potential users.

The **Member States** are invited to:

- by the end of 2010 at the latest, agree on a common minimum functional specification for smart metering that focuses on providing consumers with improved information on, and improved capabilities to manage, their energy consumption; (b) by the end of 2012 at the latest, set up a coherent timeframe for the rollout of smart metering;
- adopt and implement procurement practices that leverage the strength of public sector demand to promote the dematerialisation of ICT goods and services.
- facilitate, at all levels of administration, the use of relevant ICT tools to better understand the implications of different policies and avoid negative spill-over effects from their interaction.
- encourage the use of energy simulation and modelling in the education and training of professionals in critical sectors, in particular: (a) architects, builders and installers; (b) energy auditors; (c) logistics and the transport of goods or persons; (d) public services, planning and policy functions;
-

pursue strategies for the roll-out of a dependable, high-speed, broadband infrastructure to facilitate monitoring and management of consumption, distribution and production of energy including renewables, and the introduction of community-wide systems such as smart metering, smart-grids and smart-cities;

- make use of open digital platforms to facilitate an integrated approach to urban planning;
- inform the Commission of action taken in response to this Recommendation within 12 months of its publication, and once a year thereafter.