

Offizielles Schreiben, das vom Mouvement Ecologique sowie dem Oekozerter Pafendall unterstützt wird

To:

Mr Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal

Ms Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy

Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

Brussels, 13 July 2021

NGO call for phasing out fossil fuel space heaters through the revision of the ecodesign and energy labelling regulations for space heaters

Dear Vice-President Timmermans, dear Commissioner Simson dear Commissioner Sinkevičius,

All the scenarios in the 2030 climate target plan impact assessment foresee a massive fuel switch for the building sector, where oil and coal use disappears and the use of natural gas for heating declines by 40%. In May, the IEA concluded¹ that fossil fuel boilers should no longer be sold as of 2025 to reach net zero by 2050. Finally, in June, the EU Council² called on the Commission to 'prepare the phasing out of the [...] gas and other fossil-fuel operated heating [...] appliances'. The scale of the challenge is huge, as 75% of the energy produced for heating currently comes from fossil fuels, and as a result the CO₂ emissions from space and water heating represent 12% of the total EU emissions.

In light of the above and the impending threats of climate change, the Commission must act and make sure that no new heating appliances fired with fossil-fuels are put on the EU market after 2025.

The ongoing review of the regulations (EU) No 813/2013 on ecodesign and (EU) No 811/2013 on energy labelling for space heaters represents a unique opportunity³; therefore, we urge the Commission to put forward a ban on fossil-fuel fired appliances in the revised legal texts for discussion at the Consultation Forum on 27 and 28 September 2021.

This in practice means:

- A single rescaling of the energy label in 2023 to downgrade the appliances with efficiencies under $\eta_s = 105\%$ into the least efficient F and G classes (e.g., the condensing oil and gas boilers).
- A tiered tightening of the minimum energy efficiency thresholds for appliances allowed on the market through the ecodesign regulation:
 - Tier 1 in 2023: a minimum threshold of $\eta_s = 87\%$ applies to remove from the market the inefficient electric boilers altogether and the non-condensing fuel boilers.
 - Tier 2 in 2025: a minimum threshold of $\eta_s = 105-110\%$ to remove all appliances mainly powered with fossil fuels.

Several Member States have already announced bans on fossil-fuel fired appliances⁴. If the Commission fails to phase out fossil-fired appliances through the revised ecodesign and energy labelling regulations for space heaters

1 <https://www.iea.org/reports/net-zero-by-2050>

2 <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8923-2021-INIT/en/pdf>

3 <https://ecostandard.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Five-Years-Left-How-ecodesign-and-energy-labelling-Coolproducts-report.pdf>

4 <https://www.coolproducts.eu/eu-ambition/eu-commission-paralysis-delays-phase-out-of-fossil-fuel-boilers/>

it will undermine the efforts of the frontrunner countries, whereas the laggards will have no chance to meet their climate objectives.

We trust that the Commission will rise to the challenge on this essential issue.

Yours sincerely,

Signatories:

ECOS, Justin Wilkes, Executive Director