

# GILES CHICHESTER MEP

for the South West and Gibraltar

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### MEP CHICHESTER CHALLENGES EU COMMISSION ON NEW ENERGY EFFICIENCY LABELLING PROPOSAL

Proposals by the European Commission to revise the energy labelling scheme for white goods have been opposed by Giles Chichester, the MEP for the South West and Gibraltar, who is Conservative Energy Spokesman in the European Parliament.

Currently, most white goods such as televisions and refrigerators have improved their energy efficiency to the point where they qualify for an A category rating. The Commission, however, proposes to add more information on the label to show whether an appliance is more efficient than the normal A rated product. A television, for example, bearing the label A-20% would inform the purchaser that the TV set is 20% more energy efficient than a normal A rated product.

MEP Chichester said:

**"The energy labelling scheme has been incredibly effective at using consumer power to drive up energy efficiency standards. That is why it would be a travesty to undermine it now with an ill-thought revision.**

**"Many consumers and white goods stores are familiar with the current system so redesigning it entirely would add to the confusion. However we can find ways of building upon it whilst providing clarity. The commission should come back with new proposals immediately so that we can adopt a new labelling scheme as soon as the parliament returns."**

He has written to the EU Energy Commissioner asking that proposals for revised energy efficiency labelling should endeavour not to be complicated to the extent of confusing consumers who are comfortable with the current system. If they must implement a new label design then MEP Chichester suggests it should be limited to the addition of a star to the rating, e.g. A\* - to indicated improved energy efficiency.

ENDS

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*Conservatives in the European Parliament*

Notes:

For an illustration of the current labelling scheme go to:

[http://ukonline.direct.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dg/groups/dg\\_digitalassets/@dg/documents/digitalasset/dg\\_064803.jpg](http://ukonline.direct.gov.uk/prod_consum_dg/groups/dg_digitalassets/@dg/documents/digitalasset/dg_064803.jpg)

The full letter is below:

Dear Commissioner,

In light of the mixed and confused vote on the ITRE motions for resolutions on labelling for the energy consumption of television sets and energy consumption of household refrigeration equipment, we write to urge you to think again and come up with a new design in September.

This design should not show improved energy efficiency as a minus value nor should it re-grade the closed A-G classified scale because each option is potentially confusing to consumers.

We propose inserting a star\* rating above the existing A-G scale and adding the date of introduction of the new design. A further possible refinement could be to show each star\* with an improved efficiency rating such as \*=20% + efficiency.

Whether you accept these suggestions or not, our principal objection remains that the present designs are not acceptable and need revision.

Giles Chichester MEP

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