

Ad hoc Group 4 on «energy efficiency and energy technologies»

Mandate

Context

The Commission has decided to set up a High Level Group (HLG) on Competitiveness, Energy and the Environment from high level persons with competence and responsibility in the areas of industry, energy, and the environment. The HLG will address issues where competitiveness, energy and environmental policies interrelate. The High Level Group will seek input from experts and stakeholders through ad hoc arrangements, by setting up a limited number of ad hoc groups that will examine specific questions under the terms and conditions of the present mandate.

Objective

The ad hoc group will give input to the Sherpa sub-group of the HLG. It shall provide relevant information on the most effective policy on energy efficiency in order to: assess its impacts on competitiveness, analyse the existing market barriers, give advice on appropriate financing mechanisms and most appropriate means to increase awareness at all levels; and prepare recommendations on remedies which should further improve the cost-effectiveness of the policy. The ad hoc group will draw on existing studies and research, and on facts and observations contained in reports produced by academics or available in other institutions and the Commission DGs. Links with other ad hoc groups, notably ad hoc group 3 will be ensured.

Work plan

The scope of work shall include the following issues:

1. Analysis of the most appropriate and cost-effective actions at EU level in the shorter and longer term:

- Assessment of the impact of the key actions brought forward in the stakeholders consultation on the Green Paper on energy efficiency
- Assessment of the relative performance of these key actions in terms of cost-benefit analysis
- Assessment of the impact of a product policy focussing on energy performance rating of energy using products
- Examination of whether and how the current policies on energy efficiency present sufficient incentives for industry to innovate and to invest in more efficient technologies, and how it could provide long-term certainty for industrial investments.
- Assessment of the effectiveness of existing legislation, notably to circumvent existing market barriers.

- Examination of whether regulations or incentives will be the most effective means of encouraging the major investments in new technologies and the need for urgent innovations.

2. Explore the extent to which the EU can promote actions at international, national or local levels:

- Institution building and exchange of best practices.
- Partnerships at international level between likewise institutions and stakeholders

Methodology and deliverables

The meetings will be convened by the Commission. The ad hoc group shall organise its discussions on the basis of presentations by experts and/or members with specific competence on the issues to be addressed by the ad hoc group. The composition of the ad hoc group for each work area remains flexible. Ad hoc group members are invited by the Commission. The meetings shall be chaired by a representative of DG Energy and Transport of the European Commission. The ad hoc group shall produce a report, written contributions and/or slides summarising issues and alternative solutions for consideration by the Sherpa sub-group. The minutes of the meetings of the ad hoc group will be drafted by the secretariat provided by the Commission. Members of the Sherpa sub-group may also attend the ad hoc group meetings.

Timetable and duration

The ad hoc group members shall start working as early as possible. They will be invited by the Commission to attend a meeting of one or two days during the second half of March. If necessary, another meeting will be organised in April. The ad hoc group shall be closed by the second HLG meeting having addressed the issues outlined in the work plan.