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Energy end-use Efficiency and Energy Services Directive:

Ambitious energy saving targets crucial to ensure energy efficiency improvement

Brussels-Strasbourg, 7 June 2005: Europe's household equipment manufacturers, represented by CECED, welcome today's vote in the European Parliament in favour of putting an obligation on Member States to meet mandatory energy saving targets. CECED sees such requirements as an effective tool to move towards fulfilling EU's obligations under the Kyoto Protocol and combating climate change.

The household appliances industry has pioneered improvement of energy efficiency of its products by voluntary commitments and by investing millions of euros in developing state-of-the-art technology to reduce energy consumption in households. ***“The proposed Energy Services Directive has the potential to ensure that consumers are encouraged, through, for example, energy efficiency programmes, premiums or state subsidies, to replace their old, energy-thirsty, appliances with already available energy-efficient and eco-friendlier technologies”***, says Gunnar Pautzke, chairman of CECED's task force dedicated to this Directive. ***“We believe that requiring Member States to reach ambitious energy saving targets and to ensure that (financial) incentives are being provided, would allow a swifter market transformation and would bring long-term benefits to consumers and environment.”***

CECED is satisfied that the European Parliament has taken the courage today to defend binding targets, while Member States representatives suggest that indicative targets should suffice. The experience with previous legislation at the EU level has clearly shown that indicative targets alone bring disappointing results.

Large household appliances are a powerful tool to win the support of citizens for implementing European commitments on curbing CO₂ emissions and achieving Kyoto Protocol targets. The presence in European households (refrigerators and washing machines have about 100% market penetration in Europe) makes them a friendly yet constant reminder of what could be done and has to be done within the EU, to preserve the environment.

European appliances stand in the foreground on environmental values: they show how even highly ambitious efficiency and environmental goals can be achieved through superior technology, innovation-driven competition, and strong know-how.

END

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CECED's member companies employ over 500,000 people, are mainly based in Europe, and have a turnover of about 40 billion euro.

Direct Members are Arçelik, BSH Bosch und Siemens Hausgeräte, ElcoBrandt, Candy Elettrodomestici, De'Longhi, Electrolux Holdings, Fagor Electrodomesticos, Gorenje, Liebherr Hausgeräte, Indesit Company, Miele, Philips, SEB and Whirlpool Europe.

CECED's member associations cover the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and UK.