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Energi Norges kommentarer til revidert Europaparlamentets- og rådsdirektiv 2010/30/EU om merking av energirelaterte produkter (energimerkedirektivet)

Energi Norge er positiv til utvidelse av energimerkedirektivet til også å gjelde energirelaterte produkter. Energi Norge ser det som viktig å gi forbrukere korrekt informasjon om energibruken av produkter. Det gir forbrukerne et grunnlag for å foreta produktvalgvalg som reduserer deres totale energibruk. Det er bra at energimerkedirektivet representerer på brukersiden det økodesign representerer på produksjonssiden.

Det er svært viktig at produktkravene i energimerket reflekterer konsumentens faktiske energibruk, som igjen reflekteres i energiregningen, dette gir konsumentene økonomiske incentiver til å redusere energiforbruket ved valg av energieffektive produkter. Vi ønsker at denne systemgrensen ved netto energi, som i dette tilfellet sammenfaller med levert energi, opprettholdes i energimerking av produkter. Energi Norge ønsker imidlertid å uttrykke bekymring vedrørende de produktspesifikke kravene til energimerking og bruk av primærenergifaktorer som vi ser i både Økodesignforskriften og Bygningsenergidirektivet og som har svært negative konsekvenser i land som Norge.

Primærenergifaktor 2,5, ble opprinnelig introdusert i en fotnote til Energitjenestedirektivet (2006). Bruk av primærenergifaktor 2,5 for elektrisitet medfører i Økodesigndirektivet at enkelte elektriske produkter fases ut av det europeiske markedet (jf. Varmtvannsberedere) til fordel for produkter som baserer seg på gass som energikilde. Dette er svært uheldig i forhold til å nå klimamål om reduserte klimagassutslipp og økt energieffektivitet. Europa skal utvikle et energisystem som i 2050 skal være CO₂-fritt. Som ledd i denne prosessen, har Europa satt ambisiøse mål for utbygging av fornybar energi. Fremtidig elproduksjon vil bestå av økende andel fornybar energi. Det virker da motstridende å samtidig legge til rette for en politikk der elektriske apparater fases ut til fordel for apparater som baserer seg på fossile energibærere som gass. Vi ber derfor Olje- og energidepartementet være var denne problematikken knyttet til Økodesignforskriften i det videre arbeidet med Energimerkedirektivet, slik at ikke lignende problemstilling vil oppstå på forbrukersiden.

Energi Norge har, i samarbeid med flere NHO foreninger startet en prosess mot EU i forhold til bruken av primærenergifaktor 2,5. Vedlagt er vårt posisjonsnotat til høringen til Økodesigndirektivets Lot 21 og 22. om krav til stekeovner, komfyrer, koketopper og griller, den 4. november 2010.

Vennlig hilsen
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On the use of Primary Energy Factors in the **DIRECTIVE 2009/125/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 21 October 2009**

Regarding Ecodesign preparatory studies:

- DG TREN Lot 22: Domestic and commercial ovens (electric, gas, and microwave)
- DG TREN Lot 23: Domestic and commercial hobs and grills

Also relevant for forthcoming preparatory studies:

- DG TREN Lot 20: Local room heating products
- DG TREN Lot 21: Central heating products

And:

- Ecodesign requirements for water heaters and hot water storage tanks

The Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise (NHO) strongly opposes to the use of primary energy factor 2.5 for end-user consumption of electricity on Ecodesign requirements.

The use of this primary factor would in our opinion be discriminatory, technically wrong, and undermine the objectives of the strategy EU2020.

Our recommendation is to remove the primary energy factor in all regulations under the Directive 2009/125/EC on the Ecodesign of energy using products.

The Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises also strongly urges for coordination with EU ETS for sharing knowledge about electricity savings and CO2 emission reductions.

1. Electricity is the key to a CO2-free energy system

In a long-term perspective, the entire energy sector will have to be emission free. In order to reach this target, the European Union must plan for this today, by building an energy infrastructure based on CO2-neutral energy carriers. Today, only electricity, district heating/cooling, bio energy, hydrogen, solar power, geothermal energy are CO2-neutral energy carriers likely to bring emission-free energy to the end-user. The end-users should therefore base their consumption on these carriers, whereas producers must handle emissions by buying carbon quotas within the EU Emission Trading Scheme (EU ETS).

Putting a primary energy factor on electricity will disfavour electricity and favour fossil energy, and thereby slow down the emergence of a renewable electricity sector.

The use of primary energy factors is in contradiction with the vision of a CO2-free energy system, and it is incompatible with the overall EU energy policies in order to combat climate change (GHG reductions) and secure energy supply.

Furthermore, we observe that the working documents seem to take for granted a tight correlation between electricity savings and CO2 emission reductions. We strongly argue that this relationship is not obvious. Indeed it is in our view not correct: on the one hand, no CO2 emissions come from end-user consumption of electricity; on the other, emissions from the production of electricity are covered by the EU Emission Trading Scheme (EU ETS). As a result, electricity is to be considered as a CO2-neutral energy carrier. And in accordance with the ETS reporting obligations, emissions cannot be allocated to buildings, installations and products that use secondary CO2-neutral energy carriers.

Based on this we strongly urge for coordination with the EU ETS for sharing knowledge about electricity savings and CO2 emission reductions.

2. The Primary Energy Factor for electricity is not a fixed figure

The source for the Primary Energy Factor 2.5 for electricity in Ecodesign regulations is Annex II of the Energy Services Directive. The table in Annex II displays energy content (secondary energy) in different energy carriers. This table can be used to compare the energy savings from different energy carriers. We emphasise that from this table, energy savings realised by reduced electricity use is estimated 1 to 1. However, the conversion factor of 2.5 was introduced in a footnote to Annex II of the Directive on energy end-use efficiency and energy services (Directive 2006/32/EC). The footnote was already in the Commission proposal for a directive, tabled in December 2003, where it was stated:

*“For savings in kWh electricity Member States **may apply** a default co-efficient of 2,5 reflecting the estimated 40 % average EU generation efficiency during the target period. Member States may apply a different co-efficient provided they can justify it.”*

In our opinion the Primary Energy Factor for electricity can either be 1 or 2.5.

3. Severe consequences of the proposal of a Primary Energy Factor of 2.5 for electricity

The efficiency requirements in the Ecodesign regulations must be designed in a way to reflect the reality of energy systems in Europe. It must be taken into consideration that use of primary energy factors is very controversial in several countries. In Norway, for instance, power is nearly 100 percent based on renewable energy sources such as hydropower and wind power. The main energy system is built on electricity production, distribution and use. The only applicable primary energy factor for electricity end-use is therefore 1.0, as the Directive on energy end-use efficiency and energy services (2006/32/EC) states as the main conversion value.

A primary energy factor 2.5 for electricity end-use will have dramatic negative economically and technically consequences, both for our total energy system and for all end-user segments, ranging from professional building owners to single home owners and households. In the projected document, where the primary energy factor of 2.5 is used for all electricity use, the end-use consumptions will be converted from electricity to natural gas where gas is available. If not available (which normally is the situation in Norway), one will, for water heaters have to convert to heat pumps, which will result in significant extra costs for the consumers. This holds for several European countries.

Using primary energy factors undermines the combat of climate change, which we claim should be the overall objective. Putting a primary energy factor on electricity-use will lead to higher cost in meeting the 2020 GHG emission reductions and higher costs in meeting the 2020 renewable energy target. The only solution to avoid this unintended consequence is to exclude use of primary energy factors for electricity in all Ecodesign product regulations. Discriminating against electric appliances will, in effect, result in locking-in CO2-emitting gas technologies for at least the next 10-15 years.

4. Recommendations

The Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise recommends that the primary energy factor is removed from all regulations under the Directive 2009/125/EC.

We also strongly urge for coordination with EU ETS for sharing knowledge about electricity savings and CO2 emission reductions.