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THREE MAJOR BUSINESS SECTORS UNITE TO PROMOTE UPTAKE OF ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTBULBS

Brussels, 28 January 2008: Today, manufacturers, the electricity industry and the commerce sector signed an agreement, in the presence of EU Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs, which will drive forward the use of efficient light-bulbs, to the ultimate benefit of the European consumer and of the environment.

Household and office lighting is a major area of electricity consumption and therefore a prime target for energy efficiency action. Today's agreement for the Promotion of Efficient Lighting "*demonstrates the leadership our three sectors are taking to promote environmental sustainability, especially climate change*", the three organisations told the press gathered for the EU Sustainable Energy Week in Brussels.

Under the agreement, the three associations will encourage their members to promote and support the distribution and penetration of energy-efficient lamps in households and offices. The market penetration of energy efficient lamps is, to date, relatively low in most EU countries. However, a recent study by McKinsey Quarterly identifies lighting as the sector with the third-lowest cost for the adoption of greenhouse gas abatement measures.

In particular, the agreement promotes *Compact Fluorescent Lamps* (CFLs) as an energy-efficient alternative to conventional incandescent lamps. It also underlines the need for the lamps to comply with stringent quality requirements, as set out in the *EcoProfile on CFLi lamps*. This ensures a guarantee of life duration, energy performance and lighting quality of CFLs sold in European countries.

"Consumers need to be aware that *Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) consume up to five times less energy and can last up to fifteen times longer than conventional lamps*," said Gerald Strickland, Secretary-General of the European Lamp Companies Federation.

Rafael Miranda, President of electricity sector body EURELECTRIC, stressed "*the need to foster an energy-efficiency culture and raise public awareness of the importance of saving energy – from the point of view of energy supply security, economic efficiency, and climate change action. As lighting accounts for almost 20% of EU power consumption, this voluntary action has the potential to drive massive energy savings and CO2 emission reductions*," he pointed out.

"Energy efficient light bulbs must be made more affordable to consumers. This implies fair international trade practices" added Xavier Durieu, Secretary-General of EuroCommerce.

In early 2009, the three parties will jointly draw up and publish a report on the results of this agreement, including a quantitative analysis.

**The agreement can be downloaded from the associations' websites:*

www.eurelectric.org, <http://www.eurocommerce.be>, <http://www.elcfed.org>

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