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**FINAL CONFERENCE: APPLIANCE TESTING FOR ENERGY LABEL
EVALUATION (ATLETE) PROJECT**

MARKET SURVEILLANCE, BOTH POSSIBLE AND VITAL

**PROJECT'S OUTCOME SHOWS THAT MARKET
SURVEILLANCE CAN BE ACHIEVED AND IS NECESSARY**

Using a tested methodology, ATLETE set out to demonstrate that conducting market surveillance activities for household appliances in Europe was both possible and cost effective. ATLETE succeeded. This project, the first of its kind, has shown that European-wide market surveillance activities are essential, practically possible and affordable. The lessons learned from ATLETE will be useful for any future projects of this kind. This in a nutshell sums up the outcome of the ATLETE Project, the final conference of which takes place, today (12/04/2011) in Brussels during the European Union's Sustainable Energy Week.

The Project, which started in June 2009 and is due to officially end in May 2011, brought together five partners that have an interest in the issue of rational energy use and energy saving: [ADEME](#), [CECED](#), [ENEA](#), [ISIS](#) and [SEVEn](#). The project received 75% of its financing from the EC's Intelligent Energy Europe Programme. The overall cost of the project was €1m.

Said Andrea Ricci, the ATLETE Project Co-ordinator: "Currently, the level of market surveillance for appliance energy labelling in most European Union Member States is too low. We therefore hope that the positive experience of this project will support efforts for a greater level of market surveillance activity from national authorities. It is needed. The ATLETE project's results suggest that without market surveillance the level of compliance of products on the market suffers".

The ATLETE project, a résumé:

80 appliances¹, from 40 producers, available for purchase across the European Union, were tested for their energy label declaration. Four laboratories carried out the tests. Each appliance was tested according to five parameters², of which two (freezing capacity and temperature rise time) have been less commonly checked since the energy label was introduced in 1995. If the declared values were found to be within the accepted testing tolerances the product was deemed to be compliant. If not, a second round of testing was foreseen. Under this

¹ The project randomly selected 80 appliance models among refrigerators, freezers and refrigerator-freezers for testing. All manufacturers whose models were selected enjoyed in January 2010 a share of the EU market of at least 0.1%.

² Energy consumption, storage temperature (including the climate class), storage volume, freezing capacity and temperature rise time.

second step, three more units of the same model were purchased and tested, this time using stricter tolerance thresholds³.

Out of the 80 models selected, 54 belonged to producers that decided to cooperate with the project by signing a “voluntary protocol”. Under this protocol, the producer could agree to accept the test results at the Step I stage, if they suggested a case of suspected non-compliance. Under this protocol the producer could consider appropriate remedy actions for any case of non-compliance. All producers were invited to sign the protocol before their product was selected for testing.

Test results (now available from: www.atlete.eu)⁴ suggest that a stronger level of market surveillance is needed to ensure a higher level of product compliance with the overall energy label requirements. 84% of appliances subjected to testing and for which testing has been concluded complied with the energy efficiency class declaration and the two related key parameters: energy consumption and storage volume. When all five parameters are taken into consideration, the rate of compliance declines to 47%.

Says Luigi Meli, General Director of CECED, one of the project partners : “The level of compliance with energy label requirements must improve. These results are disappointing but they do not detract from the industry’s position on this issue.

“Industry constantly pushes for a strong level of market surveillance within Europe. Strong market surveillance is the best way to ensure a level playing field, fair competition for domestic equipment manufacturers operating within the Single Market and a high level of protection for the consumers. It is essential that Governments provide adequate resources to ensure market surveillance”.

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[Legal disclaimer](#)

ATLETE Project partners:

ADEME – French Environment and Energy Management Agency, www.ademe.fr

CECED – European Committee of Domestic Equipment Manufacturers, www.ceced.eu

ENEA - Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development, www.enea.it

ISIS - Istituto di Studi per l'Integrazione dei Sistemi, Italy , www.isis-it.com

SEVEN, The Energy Efficiency Center, Czech Republic, www.svn.cz

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³ Testing tolerances for Step I: 15% for energy consumption, freezing capacity and temperature rise time and 3% (or one litre whichever is the greater value) for the storage volume. The tolerances for the first three parameters are reduced to 10% while the storage volume parameter remains unchanged in any second phase testing that may be needed.

⁴ **The final results for 13 appliances have been delayed by a few days. They will, when available, be posted on the ATLETE website. The delays are due to logistical reasons related to fulfilling the testing procedure only – see [disclaimer](#).**