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Electricity

EU has failed to decouple electricity consumption from economic growth

The report, Electricity Consumption and Efficiency Trends in the Enlarged European Union, highlights the key findings of an in-depth 2006 survey on electricity consumption in buildings in the EU-25, and the market share of energy-efficient appliances and equipment.

The JRC says **electricity consumption grew by 10.8 per cent between 1999 and 2004**, which is comparable to the economic growth over the same time frame.

The biggest increase in consumption came from electronic appliances in stand-by mode and the consumption increased faster in the services sector (by 15.8%) than in the industrial sector (by 9.5%). The average consumption for a single household in the EU-25 was 4098 kWh in 2004. This could be reduced by 800 kWh per house per year, or about 20 % less electricity consumption in each household, if replacement of existing appliances and equipment and a full phase out of incandescent lighting were to be actively promoted in all EU Member States.

Another important finding of the JRC report is that incandescent light bulbs could be a field where modern technology could contribute to more efficient energy use. The JRC report notes that this may be a valid area of savings for Europe, in particular as new, very efficient technologies such as Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) and recently white Light Emitting Diodes [LEDs] are rapidly penetrating the market. Those findings are **further evidence that the Greens/EFA action "Ban the bulb" (launched in March 2006) which asked MEPs to sign a written declaration in order to ban incandescent light bulbs in the EU is definitively the right step forward!**

According to the report **the increase in electricity consumption has "effectively nullified" carbon emission savings made in the other sectors!**

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