



**ANPA**  
**Italian Environment Protection Agency**

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# **TOURIST ACCOMMODATION EU ECO-LABEL AWARD SCHEME**



**EU Eco-Label**

## **WORKING PLAN FOR DEVELOPING CRITERIA FOR THE PRODUCT GROUP “TOURIST ACCOMMODATION”**

Up to date 12 November 2001

## **Preface**

Starting from March 1999 the European Commission, together with Competent Bodies, turned a keener attention to eco-labelling in tourism, taking the works from the “Eco-labelling initiative in tourism” started by the Greek Competent Body in 1992.

The final objective was to seek the foundation for the development of criteria for a Community Eco-label in the product group of tourist accommodation.

The Regulation (EC) N. 1980/2000, adopted in amendment to the previous Council Regulation (EEC) N. 880/92, laid the grounds for creation of such a label by including **services** as “products”, in addition to “goods” (article 1.1).

Preliminary steps to the final objective included a hearing in April 1999, under Greek leadership, in which the significance of sustainable tourism and the necessity of credible benchmarking instruments was highlighted. A discussion workshop followed in which a commitment for further networking for European Eco-label was made.

In January 2000 the Commission started a feasibility study focusing on tourist accommodation, the “FEMATOUR: Feasibility and Market study for European Eco-label for tourist accommodation”. This study ended in August 2000 and was conducted by Dutch and Spanish consultants: Consultancy and Research for Environmental Management (CREM), The Netherlands and CH2M-HILL, Spain (sub contractor).

Following the positive results shown by the CREM and CH2M-HILL study, the Commission gave start to the third phase of the European Eco-label definition process aiming to develop a proposal of criteria for awarding the European Eco-label for the product group tourist accommodation.

In July 2001 the European Commission committed to ANPA (Italian Environment Protection Agency) the development of a draft criteria proposal Commission Decision establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the Community Eco-label to tourist accommodation and expressed its appreciation for a high degree of collaboration the Greek Competent Body, ASAOS, because of their knowledge and expertise in tourism.

ANPA will carry out the project with the technical support of ACTA (Association for Culture Tourism and the Environment).

The aim of this work plan is to outline the tasks which shape the project in order to support the “Ad Hoc Working Group” (AHWG) in establishing a draft proposal of criteria fully compliant with the Award Scheme of the Regulation 1980/2000 to be submitted to the EUEB Committee.

## Main Actors

The main actors taking part in this new Eco-label work are:

- **EU:** European Union represented by the European Commission and the European Union Eco-labelling Board (EUEB). The Eco-label scheme is part of an overall approach of Community policy on Environment and Industry for contributing to sustainable production and consumption patterns and sustainable development. The EUEB is composed of the Competent Bodies designated by their Member States and European interest groups. The EUEB is particularly destined for contributing to setting and reviewing Eco-label criteria as well as carry out the necessary assessment and verification requirements.
- **ANPA:** Agenzia Nazionale per la Protezione dell'Ambiente is the Italian Environment Protection Agency and the technical support to the Italian Competent Body. Last year ANPA has conducted a study on the application of a European Eco-label to Italian tourist accommodation structures and is now responsible for the development of a draft proposal for establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the Community Eco-label to tourist accommodation.
- **ACTA:** Associazione Cultura Turismo Ambiente, supports ANPA in the technical activities in cooperation with Ecotrans.
- **ASAOS:** The Greek Competent Body ASAOS in April 1999 fostered the "European Hearing on Instruments favouring Sustainable Tourism and Green Purchasing" together with the Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, the European Partners for the Environment and other stakeholders.
- **STAKEHOLDERS (SH):** Competent Bodies of Member States, experts on tourism and environment, representatives of the European Commission, consumer representatives, operators in the tourism industry such as hotel managers, tour operators and their respective representatives, persons responsible of existing eco-labels relating to accommodation.

## Eco-label, a brief introduction

The EU Eco-label scheme, as laid down in the new Regulation (EC) N. 1980/2000<sup>1</sup>, is a market-based instrument for the successful integration of Community environmental and market policies. The basic aims of this voluntary and selective Community Eco-label Award Scheme are to provide guidance to consumers on products with significant potential for reducing environmental impact when viewed through its entire life-cycle, and to provide clear and understandable information on the environmental characteristics of labelled products. The European Eco-label is one of the answers to promote European solutions on how to meet the challenges of achieving sustainable consumption and production patterns in a more globalised economy and within a European 375 million citizens.



**EU Eco-Label**

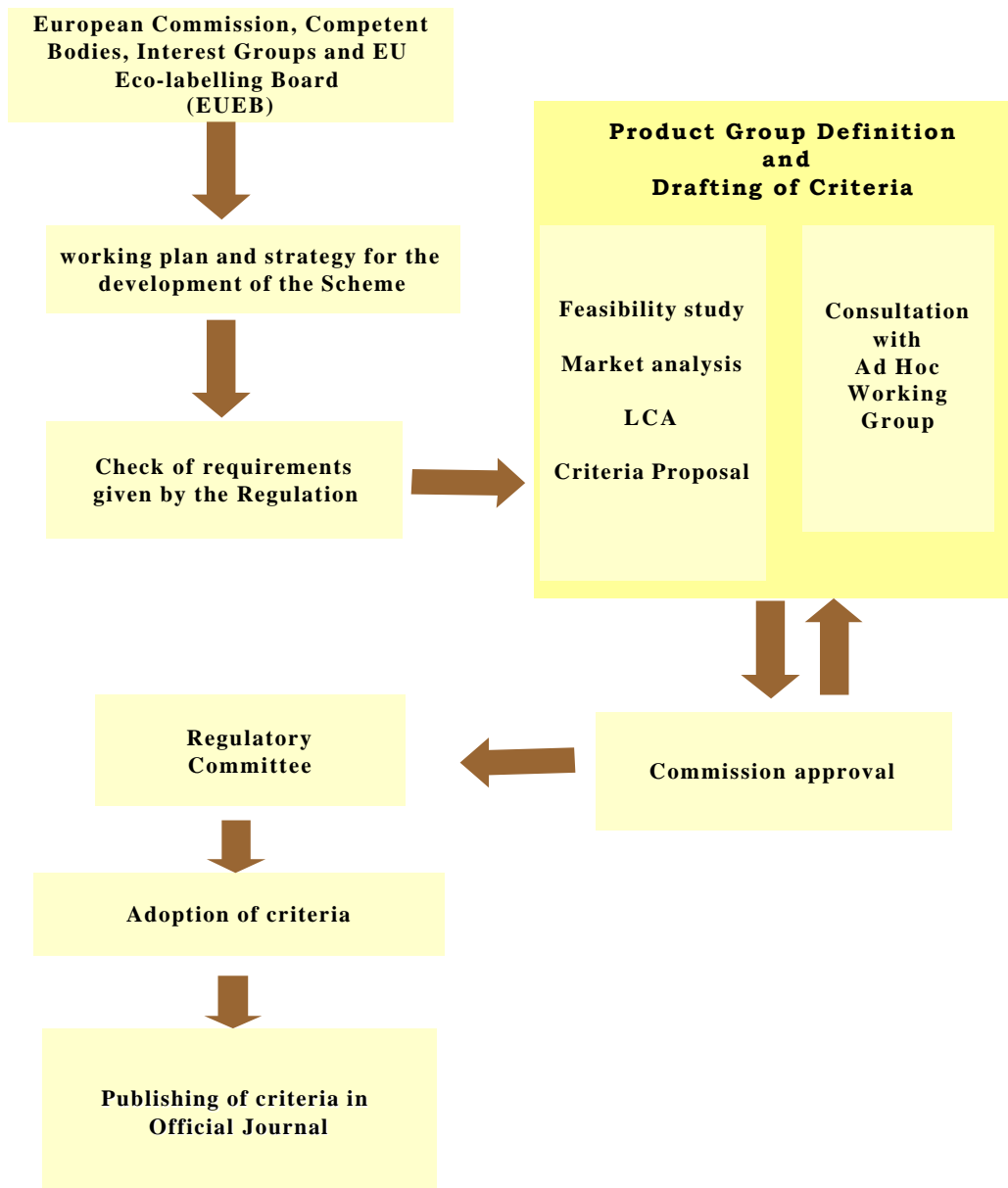
Figure 1 represents the frame required to set Eco-label criteria for a new product group in the light of our up-to-date situation with the tourist accommodation process.

The main objectives of the scheme are therefore to promote the design, production, image, marketing, sensitivity to and use of products which have reduced environmental impact during their entire life cycle. Life cycle considerations are made on the product group in order to identify, for any product group, the criteria with the highest potential for the reduction of negative environmental impacts. A particularly important aim is to provide consumers with better information on the environmental impact of products. The methodology used in the environmental impact of products is Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), which is internationally recognised and standardised (ISO 14040 series).

<sup>1</sup> This is a revision of the first Eco-label Regulation (EEC n. 880/92).

## The EU Eco-Label framework

<http://europa.eu.int/ecolabel>



## WORK PLAN

The aim of the project is to develop a draft criteria proposal for the attribution of a European Eco-label to the product group of tourist accommodation.

The process started on July 2001. Its main tasks are included below. Task objectives and draft criteria deadlines are shown in the following paragraphs.

### TASK 1: Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) Identification

The first step is to identify a European Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) consisting of Competent Bodies of Member States, representatives of the European Commission and selected interested stakeholders (representatives from the travel industry, tour operators, environmental and consumer associations, the accommodation services, people responsible for the creation of current eco-labels in tourist accommodation).

AHWG will meet three times.

The first meeting of AHWG will be held in Rome on 26 November 2001, the second will be in Athens in March and the third in Bruxelles in June, in dates to define.

**Table 1.** Task 1 activities

Activity	Deliverable	Deadline
Identification of AHWG	AHWG list	October 2001

**Table 1a.** AHWG meetings

Meeting	Date	Meeting place
1 <sup>st</sup> AHWG	26 November 2001	Rome
2 <sup>nd</sup> AHWG	March 2002 (date to define)	Athens
3 <sup>rd</sup> AHWG	June 2002 (date to define)	Bruxelles

## TASK 2: Product Group Definition and Environmental Assessment

Aim of this task is to identify the product group (PG) to be considered by the new European Eco-label. This definition is the result of an update of the picture of European situation regarding tourist accommodation structure and tourist market, including an analysis of existing eco-labels.

**Table 2.** Task 2 activities

Activity	Deliverable	Deadline
Updating European situation	Analysis of market and accommodation structure in Europe	November 2001
Proposals of possible PG definition and relative environmental notes	List of product candidates to be included in the Product Group for tourist accommodation Eco-label Scheme	November 2001
Presentation of results from previous activities	1 <sup>st</sup> Activity report	November 2001
AHWG 26 November 2001, Rome	Discussion	
EUEB meeting 4 December 2001	Discussion	

**Documents to the preliminary results of Task 2 will be distributed in advance to allow the interested parties to make their comments and present their suggestions**

### TASK 3: Defining Eco-label criteria and Eco-label user manual

The outcome of the 1<sup>st</sup> AHWG is considered in the process of defining criteria for the European Eco-label. The new Regulation (EC) 1980/2000 will be the basic guideline to define criteria for the Eco-Label in tourist accommodation.

Results from the project activities are presented to each AHWG meeting in Activity Reports. The outcome of each meeting is considered in subsequent criteria draft presentations.

**Table 3.** Task 3 activities

Activity	Deliverable	Deadline
Eco-label criteria development	2 <sup>nd</sup> Activity report 1 <sup>st</sup> Draft criteria proposal	March 2002
2 <sup>nd</sup> AHWG March 2002, Athens	Discussion	
EUEB meeting 28 May 2002	Discussion	
Eco-label criteria development	3 <sup>rd</sup> Activity report 2 <sup>nd</sup> Draft criteria proposal	June 2002
3 <sup>rd</sup> AHWG June 2002, Bruxelles	Discussion	
Eco-label criteria development	3 <sup>rd</sup> Draft criteria proposal	August 2002
EUEB meeting 24 September 2002	Discussion	
EUEB meeting 3 December 2002	Discussion on final draft criteria proposal	
Regulatory Committee meeting 4 December 2002	Vote	
Eco-label criteria development	Presentation of Eco-label user manual	December 2002



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## References

[1] FEMATOUR (2000): “Feasibility and Market study for European Eco-label for tourist accommodation”, conducted by Consultancy and Research for Environmental Management (CREM), The Netherlands; and CH2M-HILL, Spain (sub contractor). This study is downloadable from the Eco-label homepage at <http://europa.eu.int/ecolabel>.

[2] Regulation (EC) N° 1980/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 July 2000 on a revised Community Eco-label Award Scheme; published on 21.9.2000, downloadable from the Eco-label homepage at <http://europa.eu.int/ecolabel>, including all information on the new procedures and fees.