

Thematic Session, IEA 10th Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency

Future-proofing appliance policy

Friday 13 June 2025: 10h30 – 11h50 CET
The EGG, Brussels, Belgium

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Background: Appliances will continue to play a critical role in helping countries to achieve the global goal of doubling energy efficiency by 2030. This session will explore how countries/governments and manufacturers can and must work together to ensure affordability, energy security, and industrial competitiveness for appliances and equipment. It will dive into the importance of supportive frameworks for policies, of robust Minimum Energy Performance Standards for Air Conditioners, and of demand-response capabilities, providing pathways and recommendations to ensure policies are future-proof.

Target Audience: Policymakers, energy experts, industry representatives, financial institutions, and stakeholders involved in climate action and sustainable development.

Duration: 80 minutes

Time (CET)	
10:30 – 10:33	Welcome and opening – Moderator, European Commission High-level overview of the importance of appliance efficiency in the current global context, emphasising the interconnectedness of affordability for consumers, security of energy supply, and competitiveness for industries. Setting the stage for the crucial role of appliances in this landscape.
10:34 – 10:46	Introduction Policy Landscape: Appliances in National Commitments and role in achieving “doubling” targets – CLASP Headline findings on the integration of appliance efficiency in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Key insights from CLASP's paper on the significant contribution of appliance efficiency to achieving "doubling" energy efficiency targets. Supportive frameworks: Funding policy design and implementation – Agence Française de Développement Overview of the framework of AFD's policy-based loans, including for large energy transition loans and the development and implementation of policies promoting energy-efficient appliances. Examining how these financial mechanisms incentivise countries to adopt and enforce robust policies.

10:47 – 11:09	<p>Panel discussion - Strategic enduring policies: Robust Minimum Energy Performance Standards for air conditioners</p> <p>A focused discussion on the proven effectiveness of MEPS over the past decades and their potential for the future provided they are updated. Highlighting successful implementation strategies and the continued relevance of these policies in achieving energy efficiency gains, particularly with a focus on best-in-class MEPS for air conditioning.</p> <p>Panellists from Brazil, China and Industry, followed by a short Q&A session.</p>
11:10 – 11:45	<p>Panel discussion - Demand-response capabilities: Pathways and recommendations to ensure policies are future-proof</p> <p>A forward-looking discussion on the next generation of MEPS and appliance design. Exploring the importance of demand-side flexibility and interoperability to enable appliances to contribute to grid stability and optimise electricity use. Discussion of the need for open-source communication protocols to facilitate interaction between appliances and the grid. Insights on policy measures ensuring that products are built to deliver the needed flexibility.</p> <p>Panellists from India, China, New Zealand and Industry, followed by a short Q&A session.</p>
11:45 – 11:50	<p>Closing Remarks, Key Takeaways, and Next Steps</p>

About the Conference:

The Conference is being co-hosted by the IEA Executive Director Dr Fatih Birol and the European Commissioner for Energy and Housing Dan Jørgensen, in Brussels on the 12 and 13 June 2025, in partnership with the Energy Efficiency Movement.

Further information on the 10th Global Conference is available on the event page. Further logistical information, including room booking, travel and visa requirements, can be accessed once registered on the event platform.

Attendance at the Conference is by invitation only.

For any enquiries, please contact efficiency.conference@iea.org