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Abstract on the LTA Uptake Toolkit: A Decision Support System,

A Decision Support System, called the LTA Uptake Toolkit has been created to support the EU Energy end-use Efficiency and Energy Services Directive (EESD), recently ratified by the EU Council of Ministers, aiming at 9% energy saving in the period 2008 - 2016. This project will firmly support industry sectors and public authorities to achieve this target.

The EU Green Paper and the resulting Energy Efficiency Action Plan proclaim the Voluntary Agreement (VA) approach as European policy. VAs are basically agreements between industrial associations and public authorities, expressing a mutual commitment on effort and quantified targets to improve energy efficiency within a pre-arranged term.

This VA approach has proven to be successful in a number energy intensive sectors resulting in substantial energy efficiency improvement. E.g. more then 30% energy savings in a number of industrial SME sectors over the past decade.

The VA is extraordinarily suitable to support the EESD because it guarantees a maximum energy efficiency improvement against a minimum of regulations, bureaucracy, tax policy and law enforcement. VAs are therefore an attractive policy instrument for the European energy intensive sectors and national governments.

A European result in a sound basis for the national efficiency plans (NEEAPs) and an EU harmonized calculation model in accordance with the EESD.

However, experiences on VA implementation are neither easily accessible for a number of industry associations nor for some national authorities, responsible for GHG reduction in these sectors. Therefore EU LTA Toolkit:

1. Enables to incorporate a VA approach in the national member state policies for energy efficiency improvement as an effect of EESD Action Plan implementation.
2. Demonstrate the VA advantages to the target groups:
 - a. Industrial associations on EU and (member) state level;
 - b. the national authorities of EU (member) states.
3. Provides a web based tools with a wide range of instruments to be chosen by these target groups, depending on their preferences, culture, legislation and economy.
4. has been validated, maintained and disseminated by an International Expert Platform existing of experts/representatives from industrial sector associations, national governmental institutions and energy agencies all over Europe.
5. Provides useful experience to optimise the EESD harmonized calculation model with an exact bottom-up approach.
6. Leaves the possibility open to demonstrate the advantages of a chain approach of interlinked economic and industrial sectors.

Read more at: <http://www.ltauptake.eu>