

Petition to the European Commission

Dir C - Renewables, Research and Innovation, Energy Efficiency

Freedom to Choose Healthy Light!

The EU is planning to further tighten light bulb energy efficiency requirements - making LEDs the only option available. LEDs have significant health risks and are demonstrably harmful to eyes. Children in particular are affected.

This cannot happen!

We call for EU citizens to have the choice to continue to buy healthy bulbs in the future.

Many people are complaining of vision disturbances, headaches, fatigue and a wide range of other health issues resulting from exposure to LED lighting at home and at work.

While halogen and incandescent lights shine a complete spectrum of colour, similar to sunlight, LEDs contain high blue and low red content. Exposure to high levels of blue enriched LED light has been scientifically proven to damage the retina and cause sleeping disorders. The long-term consequences of too much blue enriched lighting for the eyes have not yet been investigated. For young children, the risks are even greater: in 2011, a study by the French Ministry of Health (www.anses.fr/en/content/lighting-systems-using-light-emitting-diodes-leds-health-issues-be-considered) recommended that LED light be avoided in all rooms where small children are present. We do not want to expose our children to such risks!

Leading physicians (<https://vimeo.com/270946568>) and ergonomists (www.fvlr.de/downloads/Lichtergo1.pdf) have long warned about unreflected use of LED bulbs. For many people, flicker and glare from LEDs cause visual impairment, and there are more and more light sensitive people who can not bear the flickering of LEDs at all. They are being excluded from social life by the increasing LED lighting in their environment (www.lightaware.org).

A recent study (<https://www.lichtfragen.info/de/studien/schulen.html>) confirms negative impact for pupils in a classroom with LEDs. Lighting manufacturers have broadly publicised benefits such as greater alertness in students under LEDs, however, this study revealed diminished memory and creativity levels. Memory is a basic skill needed for all learning and creativity is a recognized as a core competency for the shaping of our

world! Without a comprehensive investigation and consideration of how LED light affects our children, LED lighting should not become standard and obligatory.

Climate protection is critical. However, in the EU, artificial lighting accounts for only three percent of energy consumption. Marginal effects on climate protection cannot come at the price of public health risks.

The actual amount of energy saved with LEDs is unreliable, because data related to bulb life span is based solely on test results from the manufacturers themselves. When we hear from experts about increased excessive use of lighting and wasted light from LEDs the energy savings values are reduced even further.

As part of the Ecodesign Directive 2009/125 / EC, the EU has been regularly raising the requirements for the energy efficiency of light bulbs. There will be a further ban on the trading of halogen lamps in two stages, from 1.9.2018 (most) and from 1.9.2020 (complete). If these restrictions are accepted, only LED bulbs will meet the proposed constraints.

The EU is planning to decide which lights EU citizens can use, in our homes, bedrooms and children's spaces. These decisions are not taking into considering the discrepancy between the major health hazards and the minor benefits of climate protection.

We call on the EU to allow us the freedom to choose healthy light. The trade in halogen bulbs should not be prohibited until bulbs have been developed that are proven to pose no significant health risks.

No LEDs at the expense of our health!

We demand the freedom to choose healthy light!

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Netzwerk für gutes Licht

Our detailed commentary with further information sent to the Director at the European Commission's Directorate General for Energy in connection with the petition can be found here:

<https://www.lichtfragen.info/en/eu-petition-healthy-light-2018.html>
