8th Steering Committee Meeting 14/05/2013

Meeting Minutes

Voluntary Industry Agreement to Improve the Energy Consumption of Complex Set Top Boxes under the EuP/ErP Directive

Stakeholders wanting to be part of the CSTB VA reflector should go to http://cstb.eu/lists/

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2. Date and Venue

14th May 2013
Chairman: David Daniels
Venue: Microsoft European Briefing Centre, Brussels

3. Introduction

Kabel Deutschland has sent apologies; they were unable to attend the meeting due to strikes in Germany.

4. Updates

VA Guidelines

Adam Romanowski provided an update on the Commission's Voluntary Agreements' guidelines. This was discussed at the 1st march Consultation Forum (CF) meeting and 30 days were given after the meeting (extended to 10th April) for comments. The Commission received comments from industry (Cecimo, VAex, DIF), Member States (Netherlands and Germany), NGOs and Ecofys. The Commission will review the guidelines text in view of the comments to check if amendments are required. The revised guidelines will most likely to be resubmitted to the Consultation Forum in June . All documents received are uploaded on the Circabc website.

Simple STB

Adam Romanowski provided an update on the Simple STB regulation. There are 11 ecodesign and energy labelling regulations to be reviewed between 2012 and 2014 and Simple STB regulation is one of them. The Commission is preparing the contract with one of consultants to carry out the study that will identify the savings potential still to be generated by the to-be-revised 11 regulations. Following that study (to be finalised by the end of 2013), the commission will revise in the first place the regulations for which the biggest savings potential has been identified

CLASP has already prepared a similar report reviewing 11 regulations which shows that Simple STB savings are limited compared to other regulations. . The CLASP report is available on the Circabc website.

VAex

The VAex provided a presentation at the CF meeting and the VAex comments to the guidelines were submitted after the CF meeting. VAex has a work programme that includes developing a sanctions process that will be capable of being ported across all VAs; this work is focused on process. VAex recognised that reporting is not straightforward due to confidentiality issues, and hence mechanisms need to be found. The intention is to create high level principles that could be used by all VAs (for the Guidelines). The next step for the VAex is to convene a meeting for further developing the sanctions, reporting and auditing. The Commission confirmed it finds the VAex work helpful.

Networked Standby

Hans-Paul Siderius from NL Agency, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation provided an update on this topic. The amended regulation text was adopted by the Regulatory Committee on 21st March this year; no issues were raised after the adoption. There were no changes made on the power consumption maximum levels. The current timescales are: adoption by the Commission and expected publication in the OJ expected in September; ; 1st Jan 2015 Tier 1 comes into effect. Guidelines are being written under Digital Europe. Klaus Verschuere will distribute the current version of the draft guidelines to the group. It is intended that the draft is finalised by June, and then it will go through the Commission's process (including consultations with stakeholders represented in the Consultation Forum) and be published by the Commission.

Signatories list

The Chair reported that Canal Digital (part of Telenor) has withdrawn from the VA. The main reason given is that other regulations apply to CSTB and therefore there is no longer need to comply with the VA. The Chair will clarify to them that this perception is a misconception, and that a VA is an alternative to formal regulation. However, as the market coverage of Telenor is very small, their withdrawal will have no impact at all on the VA market coverage.

The Chair reached out to Belgacom, they confirmed they would like to engage in discussions on joining the VA for CSTB. Another trade association to be approached is ETNO. The Chair will obtain ETNO's key contact and approach them.

Current signatories of the JRC CoC are Pace and Technicolor. It is believed that Belgacom has signed the CoC, but never attended any of the meetings. HPS will ask Paolo Bertoldi if Belgacom has ever reported.

Cisco acquired NDS. Liberty Global International (LGI) has acquired Telenet, and is still going through the process of acquiring Virgin Media. LGI will at some stage report on behalf on both Telenet and Virgin Media. In the meantime these companies will report independently.

5. The Independent Inspector Report

Edith Molenbroek provided the summary of the latest report. The structure was similar to last year's. There were a few but no major changes in the content; more focus on the audit and random samples, and Annex D added reporting on power consumption in an anonymised way. Results: average compliance rate was 95%, similar to last year, with 8 signatories reporting 100% compliance rates. Answers to the II were better this time, but for some companies improvements can still be made in the reporting process and compliance with deadlines.

Information on Auto-Power Down (APD) needs improving; if a signatory claims APD for their STB, then they need to support it. There is an opportunity to add energy consumption information in the VA website. The Chair asked for volunteers. Laura

Spengler suggested that companies to provide information of best, worst and likely case scenarios. The group explained that companies have different ways to report this information and that there are legal implications, so consideration is needed. Some companies (e.g. LGI) report maximum values on their site.

The Chair will distribute the Regulation 1275/2008 reporting requirements to the group. Edith will send to the Chair the results of their analysis of energy consumption information from different companies' websites and see if any improvement can be made on the consumer reporting.

The new Annex D in the report now supplies information on energy consumption of all boxes types in an anonymised way to safeguard financial confidentially. Hans-Paul Siderius from the NL Agency noted that he was very pleased to see Annex D and its content. He can perform better and more useful analysis on the power consumption data with this information. This could be useful to inform decisions on forming Tier 3 going forward.

There were further discussions on the reason why there were differences between the manufacturers and service providers' energy consumption figures. The Chair explained that service providers have to add functionality to the manufacturers' boxes to provide service offers to their customers and therefore to remain competitive; hence a service provider STB is likely to consume more energy. This topic had already been explained in the presentation by the Chair to the CF meeting in November 2012. It should also be noted that many of the manufacturers produce low end boxes for Service Providers not covered by the VA, hence the overall average for manufacturers will be significantly lower than that for all Service Providers unless only boxes with the same functionality are compared.

LGI was chosen for auditing this year. As per discussions and agreement with the VA Steering Committee, Ecofys hired an independent test lab supplier to carry out the audit. They brought their equipment to LGI and carried out the tests. The test results confirmed the reported values.

Juan Perez from LGI provided some feedback on the audit process and results. He reported that it was an administrative burden to go through the process. The choice of boxes to audit is not straightforward since LGI owns many companies in different regional areas. He noted that it is necessary to match the box to be tested with the one for which information was reported (functionalities need to match). The process included a significant amount of training of the auditors on what can and cannot be done. The actual test lasted 2 or 3 days, but the whole discussion took about 2 months. Ecofys confirmed that it is open to suggestions for improvement on procedures. Next year Ecofys intends to start the process earlier to cater for these possible delays in the process. Juan noted that that the biggest difficulty is testing a product that was reported one year ago and may not be found in stock anymore (but part of the "refurbished" stock, which may or may not work).

Peter Joyce from Virgin Media was surprised that LGI name had been named in the report; he believed that confidentiality is an issue here and the report should provide anonymity. It may be okay if the signatory is compliant, but what happens if it doesn't comply. The SC is made up of potential competitors of the 'non-complaint' signatory, so a way needs to be found to safeguard confidentiality. Peter suggested that there are 2 issues that need to be addressed: a. that individual companies that are audited should not be named in the report and b. how to deal with non-compliant signatories.

6. Thoughts on the revised testing procedure

Robert Turner. Comments received on the revised test procedure have been minor and mainly editorial. David added this revised section to the VA draft currently uploaded to the VA site (v3.x).

7. How to move forward with Tier 3

Hans-Paul Siderius provided an update on the JRC CoC. The latest revision of the CoC v9 has been distributed on Monday the 13 May to the last CoC meeting attendees, and will be distributed to the wider reflector next week.

David asked for volunteers to start the work on developing the Tier 3 structure and energy levels. Florian Tremblay (Sagemcom), Robert Turner (Pace), Juan Perez Diez (LGI) and Klaus Verschuere (Cisco) have come forward. Juan pointed out that it needs to be understood in what context the CoC is written (2 companies is not representative), so care is needed in utilising CoC values in the VA.

David will set up a conference call to kick-start the subgroup.

8. Publication of the CSTB VA 3.1

The latest draft of the VA has been uploaded to the CSTB website. Main changes are on the introduction (CoC reference was added) and the revised test procedure; there were some editorial tidy up also. The group discussed whether a choice between new and old test procedures should be allowed for this reporting period. Hans-Paul suggested that if this is the case the signatory needs to make it clear which test procedure was used. The group agreed that for Tier 2 only the revised test procedure should be used, but for Tier 1 either can be used. However, for the next reporting period the new test procedure should be mandatory. The VA needs to be amended to explain this. David will upload the revised VA to the CSTB website and give 2 weeks for final feedback, after which if there are no objections it will be considered accepted and published as final by the end of May.

9. AOB

Gateway products

Robert Turner raised this issue, how to address products with more than traditional STB functionality that are coming into the market, e.g. VoIP, DECT, WiFi access points etc, and which are all being integrated into high end STBs. Historically these were all in different boxes, but functionalities are now being put into one, and therefore traditional STBs only are becoming a small segment of the market. The group agreed that these discussions should be part of the Tier 3 subgroup work.

Stakeholders' workshop

There was a proposal for an annual stakeholders' workshop to publicise the VA, clear confusions about its relationship with formal regulation and reach out for new signatories. IBC was discussed as a possible and suitable venue, however it may already be too late to book rooms there. David will come up with venue/timescales suggestions.

Other

Peter Joyce raised the issue of manual intervention regarding APD. What is user intervention; does it include, for instance, remote record requests etc. The editorial team looking at Tier 3 will consider a clarification on this.

Next meeting

The Chair proposed the date for the next meeting to be in November. A doodle poll for dates will be circulated.

10.

11. List of Participants of the 6th CSTB VA Steering Committee Meeting

Name	Company/Organization
David Daniels	BskyB
Adriana Mattei	Microsoft
Sheila Cassells	DIF
Jim Beveridge	Microsoft
Martin Siden	Viasat
Edith Molenbroek	Ecofys (Independent Inspector)
Patrick Mignon	Technicolor
Peter Joyce	Virgin Media
Florian Tremblay	Sagemcom
Juan Perez Diez	Liberty Global
Robert Turner	Pace
Klaus Verschuere	Cisco
Jim Westwood	Amino Communications
Adam Romanowski	DG Energy, European Commission
Lukasz Wierzbicki	Samsung
Laura Spengler	Okopol / German Federal Environment Agency (UBA)
Hans-Paul Siderius	NL Agency, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation

12. Review of action items

	Actions	Volunteers	Status
1	Arrange meeting with Belgacom	David Daniels	Ongoing
	Obtain ETNO's key contact and approach them	David Daniels	
2	Distribute the current version of the Networked Standby draft guidelines	Klaus Verschuere	
3	Distribute the Regulation 1275/2008 reporting requirements to the group	David Daniels	
	Send to the Chair the results of their analysis of energy consumption information from different companies' websites and see if any improvement can be made on the consumer reporting	Edith Molenbroek	
4	Publication of VA 3.1		
	a. Publish as draft	David Daniels	Completed
	b. Publish as final: upload the revised VA to the CSTB website and give 2 weeks for final feedback, after which if there are no objections it will be considered accepted and published as final by the end of May	David Daniels	
5	Set up a conference call to kick-start the subgroup to discuss Tier 3	David Daniels	
7	Propose venue/timescales suggestions for the stakeholders' workshop	David Daniels	
	Submit doodle poll for chosing the next SC meeting (November dates)	David Daniels	