



**Seventy million dwellings in Europe are electrically unsafe:
action plan launched on Friday 22nd February in Barcelona**

A seminar aimed at “Improving Domestic Electrical Safety Standards in Europe” was held on Friday 22nd February in Barcelona at the initiative of the European Copper Institute in the presence of the main European players (consumers, regulators, inspectors and electrical installers associations).

A survey carried out on 16.000 dwellings in eleven European countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Russia, Spain, Turkey and Ukraine) on behalf of the European Copper Institute confirmed that 70 million dwellings in Europe are electrically unsafe.

This alarming conclusion has led to an action plan aimed at improving national safety levels by 2007 through transaction oriented regulation.

Considering the lack of regulation on a European level concerning regular inspection (the only existing document is a recommendation from the Cenelec published in 2000 prescribing inspection at intervals not exceeding 10 years), the pilot forum has proposed the following approach:

- 1) Periodic inspection implemented through national laws requiring owners' certificates at the time of sale / change of tenancy;
- 2) Specific fiscal incentives,
- 3) Subsidies for less well off
- 4) Action plan focused on selected countries: France, Italy, Poland and Spain to assess the programme

Macro-economic benefits: 600 fatalities avoided over the next decade; up to 100.000 jobs created and increased value of property.

The seminar has committed the creation of a Pilot Forum charged with implementing this plan. The members are the FISUEL (International Federation for the safety of electricity users), the International Union of Electricity (IUE), the European Association of Electrical Installers (AIE), the European Copper Institute (ECI), and representatives from target countries (Spain, France, Italy and Poland).

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