

### EU Eco labelling Scheme - 04-06-2003

The Malta Standards Authority has represented Malta for the first time at an EU Eco-label board meeting in Brussels. Established in 1992, the EU Eco-label "flower" is a unique certification scheme aimed at helping European consumers distinguish greener, more environment-friendly, products and services (not including food and medicines).

Over the past 10 years, the "flower" has become a Europe-wide symbol for products, providing simple and accurate guidance to consumers. All products bearing the "flower" would have been checked by independent bodies for complying with strict ecological and performance criteria. There are currently 21 product groups, and already more than 135 licences have been awarded for several hundred products. The EU Eco-label is administered by the European Eco-labelling board and receives the support of the European Commission, EU member states and the European Economic Area (EEA). The board includes representatives of industry, environment protection groups and consumer organisations.

The MSA will be the competent body to award the "flower" mark in Malta. Product/services which fall under the "flower" mark scheme include: Personal computers, portable computers, televisions, shoes, dishwashers, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, clothing, bed linen and indoor textiles, hard floor coverings, paints and varnishes, light bulbs, all-purpose cleaners, dishwashing detergents, hand dishwashing detergents, laundry detergents, tissue paper, copying and graphic paper and, very important for Malta - tourist accommodation services. A new scheme covering furniture is being prepared. Information may be obtained from the MSA