

Final report March 2005

Workshop Energy-Efficiency of Set-Top Boxes

prepared by
Thomas Grieder
Encontrol GmbH
Bremgartenstrasse 2, 5443 Niederrohrdorf

This study has been carried out on behalf of the Swiss Federal Office of Energy. All contents and conclusions are the sole responsibility of the authors.

Please refer to the following web site for additional information concerning the Swiss Federal Office of Energy "Electricity" programme: www.electricity-research.ch

Introduction

Worldwide, the networking of the living room is in full swing. Internet and telecommunication services are increasingly merging together. The digitalisation accompanying this has brought about a rapid spread of communication units, such as broadband modems and set-top boxes, and, with it, an equally rapid increase in the energy consumption. The *European Commission (EC)* has reacted to this development, and has drawn up a partnership solution, a so-called *Code of Conduct (COC)*, together with manufacturers and service providers.

A prognosis for the power requirement of set-top boxes in Switzerland has been drawn up (Grieder & Huser 2004) in a basic study by the Swiss *Federal Office of Energy (SFOE)*. According to this study, it must be expected that the number of these units will multiply several times in the next ten years, which will bring about an increase in the electricity requirement in Switzerland of between 0.5 to 1%. In order to contain this increase, Swiss *Federal Office of Energy* is also striving to achieve a partner-like solution with the industry representatives in Switzerland. The procedure and the objectives should thereby correspond as closely as possible with the *COC* of the *EC*, and a "Special-case Switzerland" should be avoided. As a preparation for a Swiss agreement of this kind, two events have been carried out together with selected industry representatives. In the first event, information was given regarding the content and the objectives of the *COC*, and Swiss alternatives for action for the various market sectors were drawn up in a second event.

The project was financed by the *SFOE* and the *energie agentur elektrogeräte*.

Results

Both meetings were well attended. Both importers and service providers were represented by competent experts of their respective branches of business.

Below is a summary of the results and conclusions of the two meetings:

- It is agreed by the participants that next steps will be taken in Switzerland.
- The focus is on a Swiss specific voluntary agreement based on the *EC Code of Conduct*. Most participants see a good chance that their company / organisation will sign such an agreement.
- There was no participant representing the retailers. It is important, that retailers will also join into such an agreement.
- The idea is to elaborate one Swiss voluntary agreement (based on the *COC*) for all segments to make the procedure more efficient.
- It must be taken into account, that the number of signatories to the *EC COC* is rather low at present and that at all times and for all market segments a sufficient number of set-top boxes compliant to the agreement must be available at an adequate price.
- In addition customer information should be provided by the importers syndicate i.e. the *SWICO* and by the regulator (*Swiss Federal Office of Energy*).

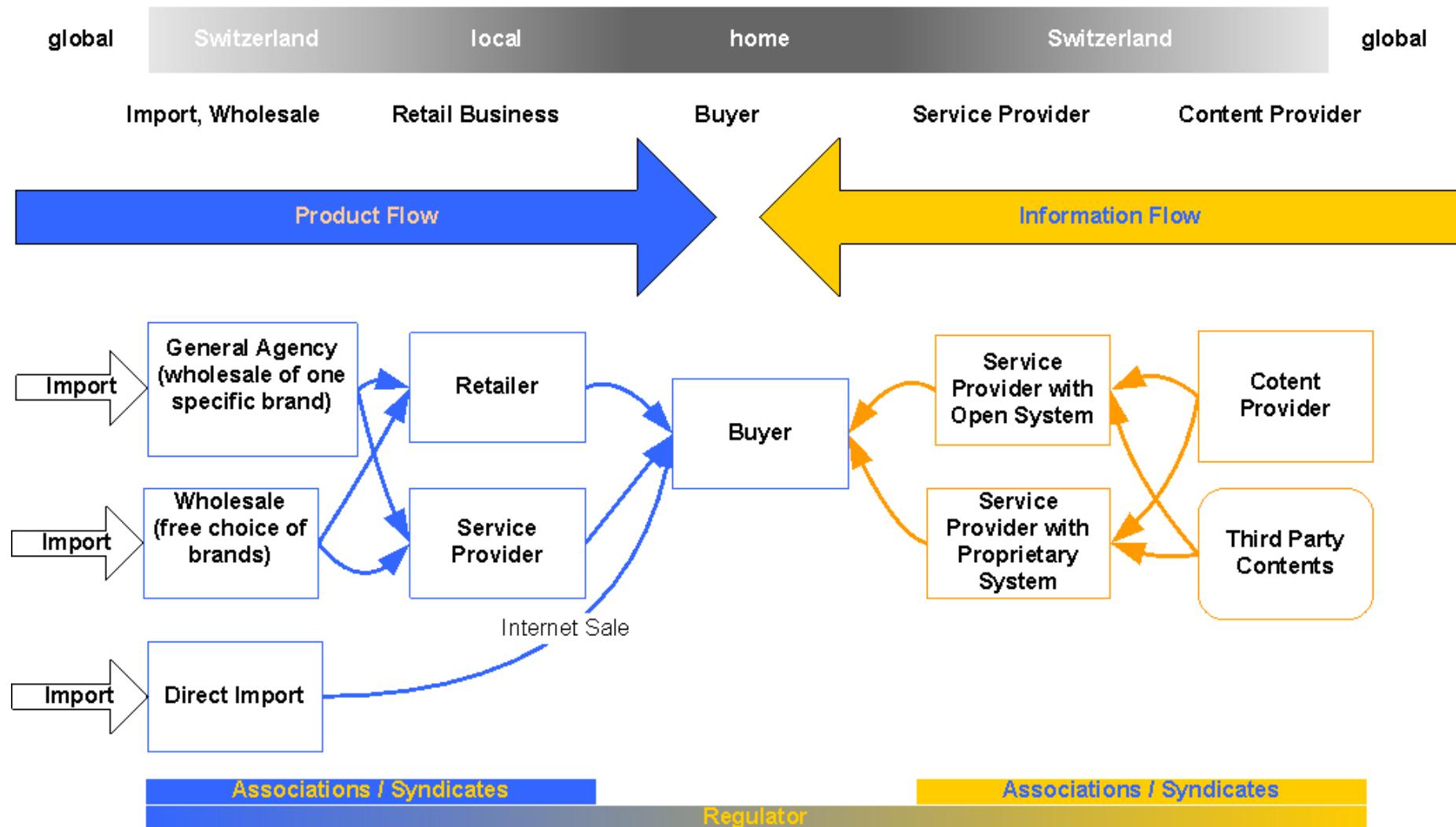
The results of the workshop are summarized in appendices 1 and 2.

References

Grieder T. & Huser A. (2004): *Grundlagen zur Energieeffizienz von Set-Top-Boxen*, Encontrol GmbH im Auftrag des Bundesamtes für Energie, Bern, 2004, <http://www.electricity-research.ch>

Minutes of Information Meeting and Workshop (in English), Bundesamt für Energie, Bern, 2004

Appendix 1: Market Segments



Appendix 2: Proposed Actions