



EREC

## NEWSLETTER

By the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC)  
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### POLICY update

#### Long-awaited Renewable Energy Framework Directive unveiled

The release of the Commission's Renewable Energy Framework Directive on 23 January 2008 generated a media storm about Renewables and the European Union's ambitious plan. For EREC the directive proposal is a result of hours of consultation with the Commission, Parliament, Member States and various stakeholders. EREC welcomes *the proposal which will – mittels further improvement- be a major tool for reaching the 20% target, for developing in a sustainable way the renewable energy sector, thereby enhancing our security of supply, reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and creating jobs in the European Union.*

"The European Commission drafted a coherent proposal addressing all renewable energy sectors", said EREC President Arthouros Zervos. "The long awaited Directive contains the necessary elements which should help meet the 20% target. Now we expect the Member States and the Parliament to further improve the legislative document and agree on the directive this year since time is running out. We hope that all parties will stick to their commitments to make this happen. The whole world is watching us. It is up to us to prove the EU is serious and efficient in guaranteeing affordable and clean energy supply to its citizens", adds EREC's President.

 [PRESS RELEASE Renewable Energy Framework Directive](#) (411 kB)

 [Renewable Energy Framework Directive 23.01.08](#) (204 kB)

#### Member States are finalising their position on the Strategic Energy Technology Plan

In a couple of weeks the Member States will have finalised their position on the Strategic Energy Technology Plan. Initially, some rather radical ideas were put forward by the Slovenian Presidency, but these were swiftly rejected by

other Member States (see articles by EUREC Agency from 10th January 2008 [www.eurec.be/content/view/188/29/](http://www.eurec.be/content/view/188/29/) and 14 January 2008 [www.eurec.be/content/view/189/29/](http://www.eurec.be/content/view/189/29/)).

A key development in the most recent draft of the Presidency Conclusions is an indication by the Council of how it wants to see 'European Industrial Initiatives' interpreted. They should "take the form of public-private partnerships or of joint programming by groups of interested Member States". Over the next few months, EUREC Agency intends to examine the viability of these two models for collaboration. Readers interested in learning more should contact the EUREC Agency's Policy Officer [Greg Arrowsmith](mailto:Greg.Arrowsmith@eurec.be) at +32 2 546 1932.

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## NEWS from the Renewable Energy House

### Renewable Energy Policy Seminar of 30 January 2008 a great success!



Two major events took place in the Framework of the European Sustainable Energy Week: the **EUFORES Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency** on 29 January and the **Renewable Energy Policy Workshop** organized by the European Commission and EREC. Both events were high-level fora to discuss the Renewable Energy Framework Directive.

As a bridge between both events, EREC organised a VIP cocktail reception which preceded the Sustainable Energy Awards Ceremony that was organised across the street at the Concert Noble. More than 120 guests attended the reception.

The Renewable Energy Policy Seminar was organized in three sessions and attended by more than 650 participants. The video recordings are available on [www.managenergy.tv](http://www.managenergy.tv)

### New Publication: EurObserv'ER Barometer 2007

The EurObserv'ER barometer, a European project co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme, measures the progress of renewable energy sources in each Member State of the European Union, on the basis of economical and energetic indicators regularly published in the press. The Eurobserv'ER barometer groups together Observ'ER (France), EUREC Agency, EREC, EUFORES and Jozef Stefan Institute (Slovenia). The Overview barometer 2007 reviews renewable energy development in each of the Member States of the EU-25.

More info on the project and to download the 2007 barometer at: [www.erec.org/projects/ongoing-projects/euroobserver.html](http://www.erec.org/projects/ongoing-projects/euroobserver.html)

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## Upcoming EVENTS

### Renewable Energy in Islands: markets for the future 29-30 May 2008

In the frame of the [RESTMAC project](http://www.restmac.org), EREC is issuing a Call for papers for the Renewable Energy in Islands: markets for the future conference on 29-30 May 2008 in Tenerife, Spain. Please submit your abstract before 5 April 2008! More information is available on <http://www.islandsonline.org> or by contacting GAIA at Tel.: +34 922 20 09 51; Fax: +34 922 20 91 52; E-mail: [c.marin@unescoan.org](mailto:c.marin@unescoan.org). Hotel and Registration: [gaia@gaia.com.es](mailto:gaia@gaia.com.es)

### HIDROENERGIA 2008 Early Bird Registration available till 31 March 2008



ESHA, together with the Slovenian Small Hydropower Association (SSHA) have published the [Second Announcement](#) for Hidroenergija 2008, the largest and most important conference on the Small Hydropower sector in Europe, which will take place in the stunning town of Bled, Slovenia, from 11-13 June 2008.

In order to benefit from the early bird discount rates, please register to the conference before 31 March 2008 on the ESHA website.

For further information on the venue, sponsorship opportunities, exhibition space, and registration fees, please visit [www.esha.be](http://www.esha.be) or send an email to [hidroenergija](mailto:hidroenergija@esha.be).

## 16th European Biomass Conference & Exhibition, 2-6 June 2008, Valencia, Spain



Over 2,000 participants from over 80 countries are expected to attend the [16th European Biomass Conference and Exhibition](#) from 2 - 6 June 2008 in Valencia, Spain. The Exhibition, taking place in parallel with the Conference will feature the foremost companies and state-of-the-art products in the Biomass Industries. Scientists, industry experts, suppliers, applicants, funding bodies and decision makers are all invited to Spain, a country that has recognised the importance of renewable energy and is promoting it on a large scale, having fully committed to the generation of clean energy and the reduction of CO2 emissions. For more information please contact [Eibhilin Manning](#) at +32 2 546 19 20

## 2008 EU Presidency Renewable Energy Policy Forum, Paris

In the Framework of the French Presidency of the European Union, EREC will organise in cooperation with the French Environment Agency ADEME the 2008 Renewable Energy Policy Forum in Paris on 17 November 2008. More information will be available soon on [www.erec.org](http://www.erec.org)

**Sponsoring opportunities** for the EU Presidency Renewable Energy Policy Forum are available. Please contact EREC for more information at [erec@erec.org](mailto:erec@erec.org).