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By the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC)

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POLICY update

Commission at work on the Renewable Energy Framework Directive

The Commission is working on a new Renewable Energy Framework Directive covering the electricity, heating and biofuels sectors. The Directive's objective is to implement policies needed to reach the 20% by 2020 target. The Directive proposal is planned to be released on the 5th of December.

EREC's President Prof. Arthouros Zervos in his [statement at the European Seminar on Renewable Energy Sources](#) made a recommendation on one of the major points for discussion: the division of the overall target amongst Member States.

If we want to increase the EU's renewable energy share from today's 7% to 20%, an increase of 13 percentage points is necessary. The most transparent and logical solution would be that each Member State in solidarity agrees to increase its renewable energy share by 13 percentage points. This would enable us to avoid lengthy negotiations and to agree in the quickest way possible on the distribution of the target.

The decision of the 2007 Spring Council, where Europe's Heads of States have agreed to a binding target of 20% renewable energy by 2020 and a separate binding target of 10% for biofuels, has laid the ground for renewable energy sources to become a major pillar of the EU's future energy supply. If Europe wants to achieve the 20% target, timing is a key factor. The target will only be met if legislation on the European and the national level is adopted timely – before the 2009 European Parliament elections.

Towards the Third Liberalization Package

The Commission published on 19 September 2007 the third liberalization package which will amend the existing legislative framework on the internal gas and electricity market. It is of key importance for the future of renewable energies since the issue of energy-grid accessibility for renewables is a central one in their development. This new package will hopefully also go a step further towards reaching a true competitive and less distorted energy market. The European Commission proposes to separate network operation from power production while continuing to allow ownership of the infrastructure by vertically integrated power companies. With the proposal, the Commission stops short of pushing its own preferred option of full ownership unbundling due to pressure from a handful of Member States. Fair grid access is an absolute minimum requirement if the EU is to meet its objective of 20% renewable energy by 2020.

Concretely, the Commission proposes two options for the Member States to decide on:

-The first option is to force vertically-integrated energy companies (which own both energy production and transmission infrastructures) to completely sell off their gas and electricity-transmission networks. This is the so-called full ownership unbundling.

-The second option would also allow companies to maintain ownership of their assets, but the management, including investment and other commercial decisions, would be transferred to an Independent System Operator (ISO), which would pay a fee for the use of the networks.

EREC supports the full ownership unbundling solution as the best solution to level the playing field, allow for increased investment and facilitate the entrance of new market players such as renewable energy producers. Decisions on grid extensions would no longer belong to the incumbent utilities which block market entrance of independent renewable energy producers.

The COM proposal can be downloaded at: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/electricity/package_2007/index_en.htm

The Voice of the European Parliament on renewable energy

The European Parliament's ITRE Committee called the European Commission in July to strengthen - in the upcoming Framework Directive - existing renewable energy legislation and draft ambitious legislation on heating and cooling. EREC believes that the vote in ITRE enables the European Commission to quickly come up with a strong proposal guaranteeing that renewable energy's potential in all sectors and Member States will be exploited.

One of the central elements of the [report](#) issued by the ITRE Committee are the Renewables Action Plans to be drafted by Member States. These Action Plans should include binding sectoral targets and must be evaluated and – if not in line with the EU overall target - rejected by the Commission. The report calls on the Commission to include a midterm target so that the Commission can take action before 2020 if a Member State is not fulfilling its obligations.

2020 is only 13 years away from now. The Commission should ensure its proposal will be rapidly adopted by European institutions therefore taking into account the position the Parliament has just issued which best reflects European citizens' views.

EREC and Greenpeace publish the Futu[r]e Investment Report

EREC and Greenpeace published in July an investment plan, the first global analysis of its kind, entitled [“Futu\[r\]e Investment - A sustainable Investment Plan for the power sector”](#). This report demonstrates a powerful economic argument for a shift in global investments towards renewable energy. The Futu[r]e Investment report details the financial rationale behind the “Energy [r]evolution” scenario. EREC and Greenpeace published a few months ago the [Energy \[r\]evolution scenario](#) which provides a practical blueprint on how to halve global CO2 emissions by 2050 while stabilizing the energy demand at today's level and guarantee economic growth at the same time. In fact a shift

towards renewable energy and energy efficiency today will be cheaper than a business as usual scenario in the long run.

Investing in a renewable electricity future will save 10 times the fuel costs of a “business as usual” fossil-fuelled scenario, saving \$180 billion USD annually and cut CO₂ emissions in half by 2030, according to the report. In sharp contrast, a “business as usual” approach casts a dark cloud over our future. Its 10,000 new fossil fuel power plants would increase global CO₂ emissions by over 50% and more than double fuel costs; there is no way of putting a price on the disastrous results this will have for the environment and humanity.

The Energy [r]evolution needs an extra global annual investment of \$22 billion in clean and renewable power plants on top of current expenditure. The fuel cost savings in the scenario, of up to \$202 billion per year, means this will pay for itself ten times over. Meanwhile, converting the massive subsidies of \$250 billion a year that coal, nuclear and gas receive to clean, safe renewable energy will cover the costs of the energy [r]evolution and much more. The report stresses the urgent need for decisive action now. In the next decade, many existing power plants will need replacing, and emerging economies such as China, India and Brazil are rapidly building new energy infrastructures.

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NEWS from the Renewable Energy House

EREC launches new website

EREC published its new website during the course of July 2007. EREC is confident that the new format for its newsletter will allow visitors to have easier access to documents they wish to read and find any information more rapidly. Please visit our new website at its new address: www.erec.org

Jean-Marc Willems joins the team as REH Accountant

Jean-Marc Willems has joined the EREC team to become the new REH Accountant. Jean-Marc's previous employments include administrative and legal accountant for a non-profit organisation, as well as financial assistant in the European Commission. Thus, he is fully equipped to deal with all financial issues linked to the different associations in the Renewable Energy House.



REH Manager Vacancy

EREC is looking for a highly-motivated **Renewable Energy House (REH) Manager** to manage all aspects (technical, financial, marketing) of the REH, the office of all European renewable energy associations, and a showcase for the integration of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies in a historic building in the heart of Brussels.

For further information on the core responsibilities and essential qualifications of the position, please visit the EREC website www.erec.org. Electronic applications (including a CV and short motivation letter) should be addressed to [lakin\(at\)erec.org](mailto:lakin(at)erec.org) by 28 September 2007. **Only applicants chosen for an interview will be contacted.**

EREC New4Old Project has started!

The IEE Project New4Old (New Energy for old buildings) which EREC is coordinating began on 1 September 2007 and will run for a period of 36 months. The main objectives of the project are firstly to contribute to Renewable Energy Sources (RES) and Rational Use of Energy (RUE) market penetration through the creation of a network of lighthouse Renewable Energy Houses (REH) which will serve as focal points for the sustainable energy policy discussion in the different EU Member States, and secondly to contribute to the commercialization of RES and RUE equipments capacity building among architects and planners in the field of building integration of RES & REU energy into historical buildings.

Inspired by the success of the REH in Brussels, the project's intention is to lay the ground for the creation of publicly accessible REH lighthouse projects, starting with the initiation of at least 5 REH in different EU Member States as showcases for the latest renewable energy and energy efficiency techniques. The project also aims to do a market study of REH projects for EU-27, and a marketing and communication campaign on building integration of RES & RUE measures. Other outcomes for the project include technical guidelines, thematic workshops and an international conference on RES and RUE integration into historic buildings.

EREC welcomes ESTELA as Associate Member

ESTELA, the European Solar Thermal Electricity Association, which was constituted on 1 June 2007, has joined EREC as an Associate Member. ESTELA represents the European concentrated Solar Power industry which was recently reanimated after a first market success in the late 1980s. Today, the emerging market in Europe is mainly driven by the Spanish feed-in laws which allow for the implementation of more than 500 MW over the next few years.

ESTELA was created to efficiently channel and coordinate all efforts made by the European industry to achieve the following objectives: create new markets in Southern Europe, reduce electricity generation costs in CSP plants, enhance solar plant performance through R&D, and ensure the compatibility of these plants with the requirements of the various electrical systems. These objectives will be reached via technological development, regulations, information and communication, as well as through direct action to promote the development of solar thermal production projects.

Next year, ESTELA will join the other European renewable energy associations in the REH. For further information, please contact ESTELA on Tel: 0032 2 400 10 90 or email: estela@estelasolar.eu

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Upcoming EVENTS

EWEA Anniversary: 25 years Powering Change, 26 September 2007

The [European Wind Energy Association \(EWEA\)](#) will be celebrating its silver anniversary on 26 September 2007. Indeed, it was already 25 years ago that in September 1982 EWEA was formally launched in Stockholm with its main objectives being "to raise the level of cooperation between Europe's wind power organisations and spur an international awareness of the potential of wind energy". 25 years on, and 30% of all electricity generating capacity installed in the EU over the past 5 years is wind power, with the result that wind energy has become a mainstream energy source, and EWEA is now recognised as the voice of the European wind industry.

HIDROENERGIA 2008 Call for Papers

Hidroenergia 2008, the most important event in the Small Hydropower sector in Europe, will shortly be sending out its First Announcement and Call for Papers for its conference to be held in Bled, Slovenia from 12-14 June 2008. The topic this year is "On the Crossroads", suitably named regarding the state our energy future stands on today. More than 250 professionals from the small hydro field are expected to attend and an exhibition space will also be organised.

Co-organised by the Slovenian Small Hydropower Association and [ESHA](#), Hidroenergia 2008 is a great opportunity to learn and share new information on SHP. With this in mind, ESHA is calling for abstracts on the following topics: Policy and New Opportunities, Images of Hydro, Environmental and Planning, and Engineering Solutions. The deadline for submittal is 15 December 2007.

Further information on the call for papers, the conference programme, sponsorship opportunities, exhibition and registration will be posted soon on the ESHA website: www.esha.be

EPIA 2nd International Exhibition ENERGY 2007 takes place from 18 – 21 October 2007

[The 2nd International Exhibition "ENERGY 2007"](#) – renewable sources and energy saving will be organised by [EPIA](#) (European Photovoltaic Industry Association) from 18-21 October 2007 at the Helexpo Palace, Maroussi, Athens, Greece. As ENERGY 2006 before it, the event is expected to be a huge success, and continue as a large commercial event in the Greek market. Exhibitor stands on site will demonstrate the latest technologies in the energy sector which will also contribute to the creation of commercial contacts.

RES2020 Workshop to be held on 22 October 2007

[The International Workshop of the RES2020 Project: Renewable Energy Sources: Potentials in the EU27 Member States and Modelling Methodologies using TIMES](#) will be held in Amsterdam on 22 October 2007.

The RES2020 project aims at analysing the present situation in the RES implementation, defining future options for policies and measures, calculating concrete targets for the RES contribution that can be achieved by the implementation of these options and finally examining the implications of the achievement of these targets to the European Economy. All the renewable energy options are examined, with the use of an energy systems model, TIMES, that offers this possibility.

The TIMES energy systems analysis model, developed in the framework of the ETSAP Implementing Agreement of the IEA, will be applied in the scenario analysis stage of the project. Furthermore, a number of future options for policies and measures will be defined and studied with the use of TIMES, in order to analyse the quantitative effects of RES development.

As such, the main objective of the RES2020 workshop is to ensure the direct involvement of National experts from the European Member States in the crucial stages of data analysis, model upgrade, and scenario definition.

EWEA Offshore Wind Conference & Exhibition in Berlin from 4-6 December 2007

At a time when Europe needs an energy shift to ensure security of supply and tackle climate change, the [European Offshore Wind Conference and Exhibition](#) (EOW2007) aims to facilitate the deployment of offshore wind energy across Europe. German Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel welcomed the event and said "Offshore wind can make an essential contribution to the European Union's overall renewable energy target for 2020" and commented that the event would provide "an excellent opportunity to broadly explore and discuss the potential for offshore wind in Europe".

EWEA CEO Christian Kjaer added that "Offshore production offers a range of opportunities for Europe, not only in bringing concrete solutions to current energy challenges but also in terms of industry development, technology exports, employment and better functioning of the internal energy market". With this in mind, the conference will host key experts to discuss the aforementioned issues for the offshore market, and the exhibition will be a great opportunity to showcase the latest products and reach all stakeholders included in the offshore business. For further information, please visit www.eow2007.info

RESTMAC Roundtable at ENERGAIA Conference, 7 December 2007 in Montpellier, France

In the framework of the [RESTMAC Project](#) "Creating Markets for Renewable Energy Technologies – EU RES Technology Marketing Campaign", [EREC](#) and [ADEME](#) jointly organise some roundtables within the [ENERGAIA International Renewable Energies Exhibition](#) from 6-8 December in Montpellier.

The RESTMAC Roundtable will be entitled "Europe and Renewable Energies: EU Renewable Energy Policy & Market Development – The Renewable Energy Policy Roadmap and how to create a scale up effect", during which technology perspectives from each renewable energy sector will be presented. One such example is the "Roundtable on Sustainable Hydropower – the way forward" which will take place on the afternoon of 7 December. This roundtable is organised in the framework of the IEE [SHERPA Project](#) and will be focused on issues such as ISO 14001 certification for SHP producers – an innovative approach, sustainability guides for SHP, public image of SHP, new approaches to environmental and social engineering, as well as spatial planning. Innovative products will also be presented.

EREC Participates in EUSEW 2008

EREC will be organising a European Renewable Energy Policy Workshop on 29 January 2008 during the [European Union Sustainable Energy Week \(EUSEW\)](#) which will take place in Brussels from 28 January – 1 February 2008. The workshop is aimed at policy makers on the local, national and European level, and its objectives are to evaluate the Renewable Energy Framework Directive to be produced by the European Commission by the end of 2007 and present the industries perception of it as well as to provide a discussion forum for market and policy prospects, exchange of experience, reinforced policies and new renewable energy initiatives.

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Past EVENTS

22nd European Photovoltaic Solar Conference & Exhibition, Milan, 3-7 September 2007

[EPIA](#) organised several events during the course of the [2nd European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition](#) (EU PVSEC), the leading platform for the transfer of information in the PV solar environment, which was organised by [WIP-Munich](#) from 3-7 September 2007 in Milan. With the Industry Forum day, the Business to Business area, the Secretariat, and the Open Bar, EPIA greatly increased its presence in this unique occasion, the largest in Europe, in order to enable discussions between the political, industry, and scientific communities, as well as creating unique networking opportunities.

3rd European Solar Thermal Energy Conference, Freiburg, 19-20 June 2007

Over 500 participants from 50 countries listened as Ms. Mechtild Rothe, Vice-President of the European Parliament and Mr. Vilas Muttemwar, Minister for New and Renewable Energy for the Government of India, discussed policies to support renewable energy in Europe and in India during the closing session of [estec2007](#), which took place from 19-20 June 2007 in Freiburg.

Experts from the solar thermal industry and research sector gave an insight into the European and global markets. Speakers and participants came from as far as Asia, South America and Australia to participate in this year's [European Solar Thermal Energy Conference](#), estec, making it the largest and most successful conference on solar thermal worldwide. The topics covered ranged from market development and country reports to technical issues as well as sessions on standards and certification. The sessions on quality assurance and financing incentives were also well received.

The [European Solar Thermal Industry Federation, ESTIF](#), has decided to move the estec to a different European location from 2009. This is to accommodate the increasing number of international participants and will enable the estec to grow even further. The location and dates for estec2009 will be published as soon as the information is available on ESTIF's website www.estif.org.

First European Wind Day, 15 June 2007

The installation of a 35 metre tall wind turbine on Schuman Roundabout in the heart of Brussels European Quarter was the centrepiece of the first [European Wind Day](#) which spread out across Europe on 15 June 2007. This event was organised by [EWEA](#) together with national associations and key wind industry players, with the aim of increasing awareness among the public as well as the policymakers about the potential, popularity and effectiveness of wind energy.

The opening ceremony attracted some 70 guests, including Members of the European Parliament, Directors of the European Commission's DGs Energy and Environment, including EU Energy Commissioner Andris Pielbags who spoke during the Press Conference on the need for "big changes", as well as key players from the renewable energy sector. Also present were Evelyne Huytebroeck, Energy and Environment Minister of the Brussels region, and Kris Peeters, Energy and Environment Minister for the Belgian Flemish region.

In total and across Europe, Wind Day saw 57 events and 95 wind farms openings, with some 40.000 people attending the events and widespread media coverage.

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