



NEWSLETTER

By the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC)
the umbrella organisation representing the main European industry, trade and research associations
<http://www.erec-renewables.org/>

- April 2005 -

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NEWS from EREC

EREC's meeting with Commissioner Piebalgs (DG Energy)

The meeting between **EREC** and the European Commissioner for Energy, Andris Piebalgs, took place on 8 April 2005. It was the first official meeting that took place on request of **EREC**, with the aim of communicating **EREC's** position on future policies, trends and developments vis-à-vis renewable energy sources to the Commissioner. Among the issues that were discussed was the RES-electricity Directive, possible action in the RES heating sector, the 7th R&D framework programme, the importance of targets for 2020 as well as the future of the Intelligent Energy Europe programme. The meeting clearly indicated the Commissioner's commitment to RES, as well as the recognition of EREC as a key player in the field of renewables.

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Two new EREC Publication – RES-H and RES-E

EREC has the pleasure to announce the launch of two new publications!

Renewable Heating and Cooling: 25% by 2020 – Joint initiative by more than 40 groups launched

The **RES-H brochure 'Joint Declaration For A European Directive To Promote Renewable Heating And Cooling'** is part of a very ambitious campaign calling for a Directive for the promotion of heating and cooling from renewable energy sources – geothermal, solar thermal or biomass. **EREC**, the initiator of the campaign together with the RE heating sector is convinced that a Directive for the support of the respective technologies is needed, and that the so far 'neglected giant' needs more attention on the European policy level. This is the joint point of view of over 40 organizations supporting the declaration. Their logos were placed on the back cover of the printed publication. Whoever feels compelled to support the declaration can also now do so on, by going to the [EREC RES-H publication's website](#), or by sending an email to the [campaign organizer](#). The RES-H brochure was officially launched in the presence of the European Press at the Hilton Hotel in Brussels on Thursday, 7 April 2005. For further information please take a look at the [Press Release](#) of the event.

The **RES-E brochure** bases on the Position Paper of **EREC** and its Members AEBIOM, EGEC, EPIA, ESHA, ESTIF, EUBIA, EUREC Agency and EWEA from December 2004 and portrays **EREC** and its Member's position on the future of RES Electricity support mechanisms. The main message is that it is still too early to harmonise financial support mechanisms at the European level. Both publications can be downloaded free of charge from [EREC's website](#). For print copies please [contact EREC](#).

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Joint Press Release on Commission spending on RE research

On 25 March **EREC** sent a joint Press Release, entitled "*Despite rhetoric, Commission spends less on renewable energy research than four years ago*", to the press. It introduced a matter of great concern for the renewable energy sector, highlighting MEP Mechtild Rothe's written question to the European Commission and the response to it, which is a confirmation of the worrying fact that funding for research projects in renewable energy and energy efficiency has dropped from an average of 275 million Euro over two years in FP5 to 215-260 million Euro in the first two years of FP6. The editors of this Press Release are the European Renewable Energy Council, EUFORES and EUREC Agency. For more information please contact [Oliver Schaefer \(EREC\)](#) or [Marc Timmer](#) (EUFORES). Alternatively you can contact [MEP Mechthild Rothe](#).

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Open letter to Jean-Claude Juncker

Anticipating the European Spring Council of 22 and 23 March 2005, **EREC** together with CAN Europe, COGEN Europe, EURIMA, EuroACE, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and WWF had sent an open letter to Luxembourg's Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, as well as to other Heads of State. In it the signatories emphasized that "fighting climate change is not only a moral obligation, it is also vital for the sustainability of our society". The aim of this open letter was to spread the message that strong policies to combat climate change and the Lisbon strategy can be fully reconciled.

The European Council (European Spring Council) on 22 and 23 March 2005, under the Luxembourg Presidency of the European Union (EU), was an opportunity for Heads of State and Government of the Member States to exchange their views on the main developments at Union and international level and to put climate change issues as well as other pressing issues on the agenda. European Council is the name given to the regular meetings of Heads of State and Government of EU Member States, and the President of the European Commission (sometimes also called Summit). You can download the Open Letter from [EREC's website](#).

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Energy Week 2005, Washington, USA

The 2005 edition of the Energy week took place in Washington, DC on 14 to 18 March 2005. The energy week is the annual energy meeting organized by the World Bank since 1999. During 5 days, in plenary and parallel sessions of the main conference and in targeted workshops, the event featured presentations and discussions with leading energy development practitioners and offered networking activities to participants from governments, NGOs, consultants and World Bank Group staff. A total of 728 participants attended the conference (251 were Bank Group staff and 477 came from outside the organization). The list of external participants as well as presentations are available on the [Energy Week website](#). Here you can also find the conference updates, i.e. an updated list of presentations, programme overview, programme, information on plenary sessions and side events.

The theme of the Energy Week 2005 was *Our Energy Future* - ensuring affordable and reliable supplies of energy for the 21st century in developing countries is a prerequisite for economic development and poverty reduction.

During the main event, two parallel sessions were dedicated to Renewable energy, namely "Integrating commercial renewable energy in energy planning" and "Operational toolkit for renewable energy projects". Participants at the two parallel sessions heard presentations from high-level speakers, which expressed their view on the key issues facing RES if largely developed. The first session described the different methods of valuation of intermittent renewables (wind and hydro) compared to fossil fuel technologies. The second session described the presentation of the World Bank operational kit for Renewable Energy. As part of the effort to scale up renewable energy projects, the World Bank is developing an *Operational Toolkit to Design and Implement Renewable Energy Projects*, which aims to assist World Bank staff and country counterparts in improving their design and facilitate their implementation. Numerous participants attended these sessions, expressing a strong interest in the future development of Renewable Energy Technologies and their support by World Bank policies. This event provided great insight into the thinking across World Bank staff and developing countries, and a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas at a crucial time for the World Bank nearly one year after the commitment of the World Bank vis-à-vis Renewable Energies which they made in Bonn in June 2004.

For further information on the World Bank Group's support for renewable energy and energy efficiency from 1990 to 2004 please download the pdf [World Bank Group Progress on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency: 1990-2004](#).

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EREC's participation at the Intergovernmental Meeting in Lisbon

EREC presented the RES-E position paper of EREC and its Members at the Intergovernmental Meeting in Lisbon. The meeting was organised by RECS international and brought together government representatives as well as certain stakeholders. It was mainly focused on the future of guarantees of origin and possible necessities of harmonisation of structures in this field. But since guarantees of origins are often seen as tradable green certificates it was important to clearly show that one should distinguish between the two. EREC welcomes in principle the idea to establish common rules for issuing guarantees of origin, but clearly refuses to use them as a basis for a European support mechanism based on green certificate trading. The intention of the RES-E Directive clearly is to establish guarantees of origin for consumer protection and awareness, but not as a support mechanism.

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European Project Sustainable Communities – guide and final conference

The European Conference Sustainable Communities, with over 400 participants, took place during the World Sustainable Energy Days in Wels, Austria on 4 March 2005. It was the closing conference of the Sustainable Communities project, and served as the launching of the Energy Sustainable Communities "Experience, Success Factors and Opportunities in the EU-25" publication. The publication is targeted at policymakers at the local level, and can be downloaded free of charge from the [project website](#). The project website not only serves to disseminate the Energy Sustainable Communities concept, but also to encourage interaction between communities. It thus is a partner forum, which allows partners to register and to display information on their community and energy efficiency measures/RES applications.

EREC was the coordinator in the Sustainable Communities Project and provides further information on the project on its website. You can access the [EREC project website here](#).

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EREC facilitates RES development in Russia

Within the EU-Russia energy dialogue, the European Commission has set up a Technology Centre in Moscow in 2002 which serves as contact point for Russian and European companies active in the field of hydrocarbons, coal and electricity as well as renewable energy and energy efficiency and should facilitate co-operation and technology transfer. In this framework, EREC will facilitate the organization of two roundtables on biofuels on 22 April 2005 and on small hydropower on 31 May 2005. Further information can be found on the website of the [Technology Centre](#).

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Breakthrough for RES in China: approval of RES law

On 28 February 2005, the Renewable Energy Law in China has been approved by the NPC (National People Congress). This is a major step forward for RES development in China. **EREC** was invited to comment the law proposal back in September last year and to give input with experiences made in Europe in the field of RES promotion. **EREC** in cooperation with CREIA, INSHP and ESHA will organize a training workshop on RES in Hangzhou from 19 to 23 April 2005. Further information on the workshop can be found on [EREC's project website](#).

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NEWS from EREC's MEMBERS and ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Launch of 'FP7 Research Priorities for the Renewable Energy Sector'

During the FP7 Research Priorities event on 1 March in the Representation of Baden-Württemberg in Brussels, Europe's renewable energy industry and research community presented their common priorities for the 7th European Research and Technology Framework Programme (FP7). More than 100 key policy-makers took part in the event, including Mr Matjaž Malgaj, speaking on behalf of Commissioner Potočnik (DG Science and Research). The President of **EREC**, Prof. Arthouros Zervos and Prof. Didier Mayer, President of EUREC Agency, expressed concern about the decline in public renewables R&D spending and urged Brussels' decision-makers to increase the yearly EU renewable energy research budget to € 250 million in FP7 under a separate budget line.

Prof. Arthouros Zervos, stressed that "we can already see that renewables can deliver, but if this beneficial development is to continue, renewable energy requires a stable, predictable supportive political and legal framework coupled with continuous public and private investment in R&D". Prof. Zervos added: "We should not forget that in Europe the nuclear industry has received for decades - and still receives - much more in subsidies and R&D support than renewable energy. If one counts the external costs of fossil generation as a subsidy for the industry paid for by society as a whole, then clearly this sector has also, for a long time, been placed at an unfair advantage."

In order to find out more about the event, please download the [Press Release](#) or go to www.erec-renewables.org. Updated information on the event can also be found on [EUREC's website](#). Here you can download various presentations, include the key-note speech of Arthouros Zervos, President of **EREC**. During the event the publication '**FP7 Research Priorities for the Renewable Energy Sector**' was launched. For a print copy of the publication please contact [EUREC Agency](#).

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EVENTS organized by EREC or MEMBERS

SHYCA project seminar in Tbilisi, Georgia

A seminar on *Small Hydropower – Project Development in Georgia* will be held in Tbilisi on 5 May in the framework of the "SHYCA – Promotion of Small Hydropower Retrofitting and Implementation in the Caucasus and Carpathian Region project", where ESHA, the European Small Hydropower Association, is one of the project partners. For further information on the seminar please contact the project coordinator [WIP-Renewable Energies](#).

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Conference – Synergy project China

An International Conference will be organized in the frame of the European Commission's Synergy Programme. The Synergy project 'Building up commercial structures for RES in China', in which **EREC** is the coordinator, brings together actors such as **EREC**, ESHA, the European Small Hydropower Association, CREIA, the Chinese Renewable Energy Industry Association, and IN-SHP, the International Network for Small Hydropower. The conference will focus on 'Financing of RES projects through CDM'. The conference will take place in Brussels on 19 and 20 May 2005. For more information please [contact EREC](#) or go to [EREC Projects – Building up commercial structures for RES in China](#).

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20th European PV Conference & Exhibition

The 20th European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition will take place from 6 to 10 June 2005 in Barcelona, Spain. The European Commission, UNESCO, IDAE, EPIA and WCRE support the event. For further information please consult the [conference website](#).

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estec2005

estec2005 is the major event for the solar thermal sector in 2005. The conference takes place from 21 to 22 June in Freiburg, Germany – just before Intersolar, Europe's largest solar trade fair, opens its gates. The conference offers a wide variety of topics, ranging from up-to-date market information in several European and overseas solar thermal markets, new developments in solar thermal technologies, as well as valuable information on standards and certification.

Amongst the keynote speakers of the conference is Mechtild Rothe, Member of the European Parliament, who will speak about her recent initiative to promote better policies for renewable heating and cooling in Europe. In the closing session the need for action will be emphasised by Jeremy Gilbert, former Chief Petroleum Engineer of BP, who will shed some light on the discussion on the End of Oil. Steve Sawyer of Greenpeace will put the use of solar energy into the context of the climate change debate. More information – including the full conference programme – is available at www.estec2005.org.

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Small Hydropower Workshop, 30 June to 1 July

ESHA, the Small Hydropower Association, EPFL and MHylab are organizing a Small Hydropower workshop which will take place in Lausanne, Switzerland from 30 June to 1 July. The workshop's focus will be on environmental issues, marketing issues and engineering issues of SHP. Additional information about the workshop, including the preliminary programme and registration form can be sent to you – please write to [Maria Laguna](mailto:maria.laguna@epfl.ch)

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14th European Biomass Conference & Exhibition

The 14th European Biomass Conference and Exhibition "Biomass for Energy, Industry and Climate Protection" is going to take place from 17 to 21 October 2005 in the Palais des Congrès in Paris. The large success of the last European Biomass Conference and Exhibition, the 13th European Biomass Conference and Exhibition held in Rome in May 2004, which brought together more than 1200 delegates from 90 countries, underlined the promising future of economic growth for energy and products derived from biomass (agriculture, forestry and animal residues, related processing industry residues and energy crops) to tackle the World's pressing climate and environmental problems, and encouraged the sector to hold another European Biomass Conference this year.

This year's conference will focus on biomass resources, research and development of bioenergy technologies, demonstration and market implementation of biomass utilization in heat, electricity production and in the transport sector, international biofuels and certificates trade and policy issues, and economics and benefits from biomass, among others. For further information please contact [ETA – Renewable Energies, Press Office](mailto:eta@renewable-energies.com) or go to www.conference-biomass.com.

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European Geothermal Energy Council (EGEC) organises Business Seminar

EREC launched both the RES-H Joint Declaration as well as the RES-E publication (see [Two new EREC Publication – RES-H and RES-E](#)) at the EGEC business seminar on "Developing the European Geothermal Market" in Berlin on 6 April. The seminar has the European Directive on Electricity from renewable energy sources (Directive 2001/77/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market), its implication on geothermal energy use, and activities towards a Directive for heat from renewable energy sources as its main point of discussion. The seminar day focused also on possible improvements of existing legislation. It has become clear from the discussions that there is a need for clarification of the issue of removal of administrative barriers and grid access.

EREC for the first time presented the "Joint Declaration for a Directive on the Promotion of renewable heating and cooling" to the public. The audience welcomed the idea of a Directive and expressed its strong support for the Declaration.

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Global Wind Energy Council launched

The Global Wind Energy Council – GWEC – was launched in Brussels at the presence of European Commissioner Andris Piebalgs (DG Energy) on 9 March 2005. The Commissioner confirmed during the event that no harmonization of support mechanisms for RES-E will take place in the near future, a news which was very positively received by most participating associations and people. **EREC** was especially pleased to hear this, and also to see the Commissioner picking up an essential element in his speech, one which **EREC** has insisted on for the last weeks. That is to say, that it is too early for a harmonization of national support mechanisms for RES-E.

The event, which took place outside the Renewable Energy House, in the vicinity of the European Parliament and Commission, was very well attended and reflected the great success and the truly global nature of the wind energy and

industry. Supporting leading national and continental wind energy associations from Australia, Canada, China, Europe, Japan, India and the US were present. GWEC is the global forum for the wind energy sector, uniting the wind industry and its representative associations. The members operate in more than 50 countries and represent over 1,500 organisations involved in hardware manufacture, project development, power generation, finance and consultancy, as well as researchers and academics. GWEC members represent all the world's major wind turbine manufacturers and 99 % of the world's 47,317MW of installed wind power capacity.

For more information on GWEC please contact [Luisa Colasimone](#) or go to www.gwec.net

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MISCELLANEOUS

News on the Biofuels Directive

Nine EU Member States are lagging behind in communicating their target for the share of biofuels in 2005, as required by the European legislation on biofuels. This legislation requires that an increasing proportion of all diesel and petrol sold in the Member States be biofuels, starting with 2% in 2005 and progressively increasing so as to reach a minimum of 5.75% of fuels sold in 2010. The European Commission thus notified nine Member States on their non-conformity with the European legislation on biofuels. The Commission Press Release from 16 March 2005 reads that "Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland and Slovenia have not yet submitted their national report to the Commission that was due by 1 July 2004 under the biofuels Directive (Directive 2003/30/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 May 2003 on the promotion of the use of biofuels and other renewable fuels for transport). Cyprus and Estonia's national reports have been submitted but do not include a target for the share of biofuels. The targets mentioned in the national reports of both France and Portugal are not definitive. For the present position with regards to the implementation of the biofuels Directive in the Member States (state of play on 7 March 2005) please go to the [Commission's Press Releases](#).

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News on the EU ETS

EREC has taken part in a meeting on the "Business consequences of the **EU Emissions Trading Scheme**". The meeting at the invitation of MEP Hans Blokland, Vice Chairman of the Environment Committee at the European Parliament, took place on 16 February 2005 in Brussels. The potential economic and environmental impacts of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) on businesses were discussed during the meeting, with a particular focus on the competitiveness of European industries. In general the meeting showed that the EU ETS has many supporters, including NGOs. Jos Delbeke from the European Commission commented on the current phase of the ETS, lasting from 2005 until 2008. Mr Delbeke said it was a "learning-by-doing phase", and reminded everyone of the review of the EU ETS in 2006. Member States will have to send their national reports on the functioning of the ETS in their countries to the European Commission by the end of 2005. This is a particularly critical requirement, as the Member States will have little or no experience how the scheme works, especially when also taking into account that four of the Member States still have had not entered the scheme in the middle of February 2005. The National Allocation Plans of Poland, Italy, the Czech Republic and Greece were still pending in February, meaning their respective businesses have not had a chance of taking part in the emissions trading scheme yet.

The new CEPS Task Force Report ([Centre for European Policy Study](#)) on the business consequences of the Emissions Trading Scheme was launched during the event on February 16, 2005.

More News on Emissions Trading

The European Commission formally rejected on 12 April the request from the UK to increase the number of CO2 emissions allowances to be granted to UK companies, over the amount already approved by the Commission in July last year. The [Commission decision](#) can be read online.

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REACT workshop

React is a European Commission funded programme under the Altener programme. **EREC** participated in the REACT workshop on 25 February 2005 on Renewable Energy Policy Action. The workshop aimed at formulating recommendations for the European Biomass Action Plan the Commission intends to publish soon. On 29 November 2004 EU Ministers had given the go-ahead to the EU Biomass Action Plan, emphasizing that it must analyse the potential of biomass in three areas: electricity; heating and cooling; transport. The ministers also stressed the importance of research and development. For further information please refer to the [Council of the European Union](#).

Providing a platform for finding the most successful renewable energy policies, the workshop aims also at learning to implement renewable energy policies in EU Member States. A lot of the participants of the workshop found it necessary to have an EU Directive for the promotion of heating and cooling from renewable energy sources. For further information on the workshop please visit the [REACT Novem website](#).

News on the Biomass Action Plan

EREC participated in a stakeholder meeting of the External Stakeholder Group (ESG), attempting to support and contribute to the activities of the Commission on the Biomass Action Plan. **EREC** stressed its point of view that the internalization of external costs would be the best measure to support biomass and other renewable energy sources, because it would yield a true level playing field for all energy options. In addition, **EREC** thinks that that the setting of clear targets by the EC for the RES-heat sector is vital. These targets should be defined at least up to 2020, together with other measures, in a European Directive. **EREC** further demanded that administrative barriers be removed, that a framework for national support schemes be set, and that the quality of heat market statistics be improved. It is clear that in the long run, a portfolio of different RES technologies will be necessary to provide Europe with energy, which is the main reason why Europe cannot afford to solely focus on RES options which are most economic today.

The meeting of the ESG took place on Friday, 4 March at the Charlemagne Building in Brussels. For the further information on the External Stakeholder Group and the meeting itself please consult the [minutes of the meeting](#).

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Green Power Conferences: The CEE Sustainable Energy Meeting Place

Green Power Conferences is an event producer in the field of renewable energy. Partnering with a network of international industry bodies, advisors and NGOs, such as **EREC**, it provides quality information, facilitates business and accelerates the transition to a sustainable, low carbon society. Among the Green Power Conferences Partners are **EREC**, UNEP, REEEP, Managenergy, BSREC, Energy Centre Bratislava, SEFI, The Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe and FULL CELL MARKETS.

The CEE Sustainable Energy Meeting Place will take place under the frame of 'Green Power Central & Eastern Europe' from 7 to 9 September 2005 in Prague, Czech Republic. You can register for the Green Power Conferences [here](#). Green Power Central & Eastern Europe is a high level, business networking forum that will bring together representatives from governments, utilities, project developers, manufacturers, financial institutions, research institutions and NGO's to explore new approaches to renewable energy and energy efficiency investment and project implementation. Further details can soon be found on [the CEE Sustainable Energy Meeting Place conference page](#).

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