



NEWSLETTER

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

- February 2005 -

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NEWS from EREC

EREC's Position Paper on the creation of a framework programme for competitiveness and innovation

EREC's Position Paper on the future of Intelligent Energy – Europe (EIE) Programmes is a response to the public consultation on the creation of a framework programme for competitiveness and innovation. **EREC** welcomes that DG Enterprise recognizes the importance of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures for enhancing competitiveness as well as the role of EU industry as world leader in this specific sector. However, **EREC** is concerned about the proposed approach to integrate the Intelligent Energy – Europe (EIE) programme in the proposed framework programme for competitiveness and innovation. **EREC** stresses the importance of continued and well-defined EU support for renewable energy and energy efficiency, with a clearly defined target, such as that coming at present from the existing EIE programme. If you want to find out more about **EREC's** position concerning the creation of a framework programme for competitiveness and innovation, please [click here](#).

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EREC's Position Paper on the future of support systems for RES-e

With this Position Paper **EREC** and its Members, the European renewable energy industry, trade and research associations, wish to make their opinion public about the evaluation later this year of the Directive on the promotion of electricity from renewable energy sources, adopted in 2001. In brief, the paper touches upon the following:

Point one emphasizes that effective competition in the conventional power market is a precondition for harmonizing support mechanisms for power from renewable energy sources. **EREC** has published a separate briefing on the topic, which identifies a true “myth of effective competition in conventional power markets” (for more information please refer to our homepage or [click here](#)). The European renewable energy industry therefore thinks that it is too early to harmonise support mechanisms for renewables. However, the Position Paper demonstrates the consensus that exists within the sector about setting mandatory national targets for 2010, which would be appropriate and lead to more efforts in all Member States. Fourthly, a further recommendation to the Commission is to remove administrative barriers in the Member States. The fifth point aims at strengthening and harmonizing the rules on grid access for and transition of renewable electricity, in favour of renewable energy technologies. Finally, the sector calls for technological diversity and the raising of public awareness.

The paper continues focusing on the above-mentioned topics, however it also recommends, among others, that local and regional benefits and public acceptance be encouraged. If you wish to find out more about the Position of the European renewable energy industry, trade and research associations and their specific point of view on support systems for RES-e, please [click here](#).

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Web Partner Forum – Energy Sustainable Communities

The **Web Partner Forum ‘Energy Sustainable Communities’**, which is a **forum of exchange** of information and expertise for community actors and sustainable energy issues, has gone online. It aims at facilitating the life of Energy Sustainable Communities (ESC) and those that want to become ESC and their means of communication. You want to find out how the concept Energy Sustainable Communities is defined? And more importantly you want to know how to become an ESC? [Read more](#)

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Intelligent Energy for Europe - Information Day 31 January

The European Commission launched the new call for proposals for the “Intelligent Energy – Europe” Programme on 23 December 2004. The call is closing on 23 March 2005 for type 1 and type 2 actions and on 31 May 2005 for type 3 actions. **EREC** attended an Intelligent Energy Information Day that took place in Brussels on 31 January, during which advice on how to react to the calls, based on the previous call, was given. Presentations of the Key Actions opened in 2004 – under SAVE, ALTENER, STEER, COOPENER and Horizontal Key Actions - were on the agenda of the day. The event was broadcast live on the internet; should you wish to listen to individual speeches, you can do so by entering the [Internet Broadcast](#) section on the Managenergy website, where you will find a selection of events that were broadcast live on the internet in the past, including the 31 January event. In addition, the website offers you a search function allowing you to search by presentations, by speaker, as well as by date.

Further information can be found on the [Intelligent Energy – Europe](#) website of the European Commission, as well as on the [Managenergy](#) website.

NEWS from EREC's MEMBERS and ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

EPIA and EUREC Agency are setting research priorities for FP7

EPIA, the European Photovoltaic Industry Association, and the EUREC Agency representing the leading European Renewable Research Institutes, have identified common priorities for research and technology development (RTD) under the seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The two organizations gathered on 4 November 2004 when they put down the short, medium and long-term RTD priorities. Short to medium term priorities are estimated to require a budget of 430 million Euros, whereas longer-term priorities require another 230 million Euros. This amounts to a total budget of 660 million Euros for the time frame of FP7 (2007 – 2010) – European Commission contribution excluded. More information can be found on [EPIA's website](#).

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EGEC – launch of a New Website

The European Geothermal Energy Council (EGEC), one of **EREC's** Associate Members, has launched its new website. You can access it at <http://www.egec.org>. EGEC has a small office in Brussels, at 19, Avenue des Arts, 1210 Brussels, Belgium.

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EUBIA – New Deputy Secretary General

The European Biomass Industry Association has its offices at the heart of the European quarter, at Rond Point Schuman. EUBIA has recently recruited a new deputy secretary general, Paula Llamas, to support Giuliano Grassi, Secretary General of EUBIA since 1996/97. EUBIA promotes modern industrial biomass based technology strategies and runs projects for the EU. At the moment EUBIA is heavily involved in cooperation activities with third countries, in particular China, India, Vietnam and Brazil. You can find more information about EUBIA's scope and objectives on [EUBIA's website](#).

EVENTS organized by EREC or MEMBERS

Small Hydropower Workshop, June 30th – 1 July, organized by ESHA

ESHA, the Small Hydropower Association, EPFL and MHylab are organizing a Small Hydropower workshop which will take place in Lausanne, Switzerland from 30th June - 1st 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@ESHA.be), (Maria.Laguna@ESHA.be)

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ESTEC 2005 - European Solar Thermal Energy Conference

Estec is Europe's largest solar trade fair at the moment. Estec2003 marked a major breakthrough for the solar thermal sector and set new standards not only in terms of numbers of participants but also in the quality of presentations. Thus a *2nd European Solar Thermal Energy Conference* will take place this year in Freiburg, Germany, on 21st and 22nd June 2005. Estec will be organised by ESTIF, the European Solar Thermal Industry Foundation, in collaboration with the German Solar Industry Association BSI and Intersolar. One of the keynote speakers at estec2005 will be Mechtild Rothe, Member of the European Parliament. More information on the conference can be found on the [estec2005 website](#).

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Semicon Europa Exhibition and Conference

SEMICON Europa 2005 will take place from 12 to 14 April 2005. Within the framework of SEMICON a Photovoltaic Manufacturing Industry Platform is planned, that combines two events, the **1st International Photovoltaic Manufacturing Equipment & Materials Exposition** and the **1st International Advanced Photovoltaic Manufacturing Technology Conference**. Both exhibition and conference take place in Munich, Germany, on April 13 2005.

The **1st International Advanced Photovoltaic Manufacturing Technology Conference**, organised by SEMI in cooperation and sponsored by **EPIA**, the **European Photovoltaic Industry Association**, will be a major event for the

Photovoltaics sector. Keynote speakers at the conference include top managers from PV businesses from around the world, representing Germany, the US, the UK, China, Norway, Taiwan, Switzerland, and Japan. The Conference Agenda foresees a presentation session (morning until lunchtime) on the "PV manufacturing technology food chain", and an executive panel session (from 2 to 3 pm), chaired by Michel Viaud, Secretary General of EPIA. The "Challenges and Opportunities in Photovoltaic Mass-Production" will be focused on during the afternoon session.

SEMICON is a European Forum for and with the European Semiconductor related industry and PV manufacturing community. EPIA will have its own stand at the SEMICON. You can download the morning and afternoon session programmes from [EPIA's website](#).

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European Geothermal Energy Council (EGEC) organises Business Seminar

EGEC will organized its 4th Business Seminar in Berlin on 6th April 2005. The seminar will focus on the revision of the RES-e Directive (2001/77/EC) later this year, the German EEG ([Erneuerbare-Energien-Gesetz](#)), the possibility of geothermal energy development in other EU countries, and the prospect of a Directive on Heating and Cooling of the European Commission, among others. Keynote speaker will include Mechtild Rothe, Member of the European Parliament, and Hans-Josef Fell, Member of the German Bundestag. Please contact the [Geothermische Vereinigung e.V.](#) for further information.

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EUREC Agency together with EREC organize a meeting on the role of RES in FP7 on 1st of March 2005

EUREC Agency and **EREC** organize a lunchtime meeting on the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Commission. It is going to take place on March 1, 2005, between 11:30 and 13:00 o'clock at the European Parliament in Brussels. EUREC Agency will present its FP7 research priorities for the Renewable Energy Sector in form of a publication, which is the outcome of a six-month dialogue between research and industry stakeholders in the renewable energy sector. Keynote speakers at the event include the President of EUREC Agency, Prof. Didier Mayer, and Prof. Arthouros Zervos, the President of **EREC**. The welcome speech will be held by German MEP Mechtild Rothe, and representatives from DG TREN and DG Research will give their views on the topic.

EREC has recently published its position regarding FP7, in form of a Position Paper in which **EREC** calls for a separate budget line for RES in FP7. It is available on the [EREC website](#). The event in the European Parliament will provide the opportunity to discuss these positions. Please visit the website of [DG Research](#) for further information on the Research Themes under FP7.

For detailed information about the programme of the meeting on March 1 please visit the [EREC website](#).

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EREC's Dinner Debate

EREC hosted a dinner debate together with the **European Energy Forum** on "RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES, the Solution for the Future". The dinner debate took place in the European Parliament, on 24 January 2005. Around 110 participants from the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Council of the European Union and numerous associations and industry representations in the field of renewables as well as other fields took part in the event. Professor Arthouros Zervos, president of the **European Renewable Energy Council**, delivered a keynote speech with the title "RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES, the Solution for the Future", which was well received and followed up with a vivid debate.

During the event **EREC's** latest [Position Paper on the future of support systems for RES-e](#) was launched. It is available in pdf format on **EREC's** website. For further information please go to [NEWS FROM EREC](#) within this Newsletter. During the debate Commission Officials expressed the view of Commissioner Piebalgs, who also thinks that it is too early to propose a harmonized support system scheme already in 2005.

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EPIA/EUFORES workshop at the European Parliament – 'Solar Generation'

On 18 January 2005 EPIA together with EUFORES and Greenpeace organized a workshop at the European Parliament in Brussels. The event represented the launch of the ambitious 'Solar Generation' report (October 2004), a publication that is the outcome of EPIA's and Greenpeace International' joint initiative of the past years. Since the publication of the first report in 2001, much has changed for the PV industry, and the latest report suggests that by 2020 solar power can provide solar electricity to over 1 billion people and create 2 million jobs. As well as projections for installed capacity and energy output it

makes assessments of the level of investment required, and the crucial effect which an increased input from solar electricity will have on greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

For more information on the Solar Generation report 2004 please [click here](#).

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MISCELLANEOUS

European Commission: 5 year strategy released

The European Commission published its political strategy to 2009 on Wednesday, 26 January 2005. The focus during the next 5 years will be on **prosperity**, **solidarity** and **security**, whereby prosperity is linked to growth and job creation, hence the Lisbon agenda, and security to control of EU borders and legal migration, among others. The objective of solidarity entails sustaining and reinforcing Europe's commitment to solidarity and social justice, to a strengthening of the cohesion of the enlarged Union and environmental protection. The Commission is aware that **continued leadership** at the European level is crucial at this point in time, especially with regards to the aim of environmental protection. Furthermore, European Commission president José Manuel Barroso announced during the presentation of the strategy to the European Parliament in Brussels that **sustainable development** will be the underlying principle during the 5 years to come.

The European Commission is sending an important sign to the renewable energy sector by putting Green issues on the agenda the way they do; particularly positive is the emphasis on "fully exploiting Europe's competitive edge in environmental technology" (Barroso at the European Parliament).

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EU launches CO2 Trading

The world's first international carbon dioxide emissions trading scheme has started on New Year's Day. It means that energy-intensive businesses will have to monitor and lower their carbon emissions, and it gives rise to the hope that Europe meets its Kyoto target of an 8 % cut in carbon emissions by 2012 (compared with 1990). There is much controversy around the scheme, as for some the scheme does not go far enough – those voices usually call for steeper reductions of CO2 emissions – whereas others believe that the emissions trading scheme is well suited to force businesses to change their behavior. Those businesses that try to evade compliance under the scheme will be charged with heavy fines. Environmental groups warn that because of the over-allocation of allowances businesses have little incentives to lower their emissions. They fear that as a result of the over-allocation, the CO2 market will most likely see low prices which in turn will lower the environmental effectiveness of the system.

It has become public that some businesses have had a bad start though. The UK's national allocation plan changed prior to January 1 due to last minute decisions within the government, which meant that UK businesses were not able to take part in the scheme from January 1. Three other countries, among them Poland, the Czech Republic and Italy, are yet waiting to have their national allocation plans (NAPs) approved by Brussels. Italy has hope that its plan will be ratified within the month of February though. The first NAPs, covering the period 2005-07, contain information on specific emissions targets for the power sectors and energy intensive industries, and on how targets are to be divided among the installations. More information about the EU Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) can be found on the [DG Environment's](#) Emission Trading Scheme website. There you will also find answers to your questions regarding emissions trading and national allocation plans, the Directive 2003/87/EC (the emissions trading directive) and press items related to EU ETS.

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World Sustainable Energy Days / Sustainable Communities Conference

The [World Sustainable Energy Days](#) (WSED) – the largest annual conference in this field - take place in Wels, Austria, from 2 – 4 March 2005. It is a 4-day event, organized by O.Ö. Energiesparverband, and supported by **EREC**, during which the latest technological developments, outstanding examples and European strategies will be presented. The WSED consist of the European Pellets Conference, the Innovative Public and Commercial Buildings Conference, the **Sustainable Communities Conference** and a trade fair - the Energiesparmesse. The Sustainable Communities Conference will take place on Friday, 4 March 2005 (morning and afternoon) and include keynote speakers such as Professor Arthouros Zervos, President of **EREC**, Christine Lins, Secretary General of **EREC**, and Professor Didier Mayer, President of EUREC Agency, also member of Ecole National Supérieure des Mines de Paris.

The **Energy Sustainable Communities Conference** will focus on innovative energy technologies, sustainable energy policies, and sustainable energy initiatives for Europe's communities, among others. The conference programme also

schedules several interventions on specific energy sustainable communities in Western and in Central and Eastern Europe, and on those that are on their way of becoming ESC, including interventions by representatives from the regions Upper Austria, Rhône-Alpes (France), Wales and from the village Jindrichovice pod Smrkem (Czech Republic). During the conference participants are encouraged to speak about their experiences as well as the RES and RUE measures that are being put in place within their communities.

Conference participants can register a poster with the conference organizers for display in front of an international audience of experts and professionals. It should either display information about European Projects and/or successful initiatives concerning energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. [Read more](#)

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World Geothermal Congress 2005

The World Geothermal Congress, a major event co-convened by the International Geothermal Association and the Turkish Geothermal Association, is scheduled for 24 – 29 April 2005 in Antalya, Turkey. The deadline for registration is April 1, 2005. Around 2500 participants from foreign countries and around 3000 Turkish participants are expected to take part in this congress. In addition to the conference programme sessions, an exhibition, technical and cultural field trips, short courses, social and cultural activities will be realized. To find out more about this event please [click here](#).

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Kyoto Protocol: Entry into force in February 2005!

The Kyoto Protocol's entry into force is imminent! On February 16, 2005 it will finally enter into force after a long period of uncertainty over its future. What brought the change was the receipt of Russia's ratification of the protocol on 18 November 2004. After two and a half years of intense discussions, the Kyoto protocol had been adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997. 84 countries then signed the protocol, however not all of them actually ratified it, due to a lack of clarity concerning the rules of the protocol at the time. Both the signature and the ratification of a certain amount of countries – in case of the Kyoto Protocol the number is 55 - are preconditions for the entry into force. This number now being reached, the protocol will become legally binding to its parties. If you want to find out more about the Kyoto Protocol, please [click here](#).

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European Biomass Action Plan – European Commission launches public consultation

The European Commission launched a public consultation on the planned Biomass Action Plan on 2nd of February 2005. If you are interested in submitting a contribution you must respect the deadline which is 28 February 2005. For further information please [click here](#).

*Please send your comments, an update of your profile or a request to be unsubscribed to:
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