



Brussels, 9th of December 2008

European Renewable Energy Council

For information please contact:

Oliver Schäfer, Policy Director,

Mob: +32 496 65 28 37

Email: Schaefer@erec.org

The European Renewable Energy Industry is delighted to see the Energy Revolution starting in Europe!

Brussels, the 9th of December 2008 - Agreement has been reached on the Renewable Energy Directive between the European Parliament, the French Presidency on behalf of the Council and the European Commission. The European Renewable Energy Council welcomes very much the outcome of these long-standing negotiations. "This European Directive will be the most important piece of legislation on renewable energy in the world" says EREC President Arthouros Zervos.

"We therefore congratulate the Rapporteur of the European Parliament Claude Turmes, the French Presidency of the European Union and the European Commission for having agreed together this Directive", adds EREC President. This piece of legislation will successfully cover all renewable energy sectors in a nice way. It will provide for a much-needed investor confidence in the renewable energy sector, and thereby enable the European Union to achieve in the most cost-efficient way the binding 20% renewable energy target by 2020.

For the first time, each Member State has a legally binding renewables target for 2020 along with a clear trajectory to follow. By June 2010 the Member States will draw up National Action Plans detailing the ways in which they are to meet their 2020 targets, which will then be submitted to the Commission for assessment. They will report on how they are doing every two years. These measures will lead to real progress in the 27 countries.

"At a time when international climate negotiations are ongoing, the European Union gives a strong signal to other countries worldwide. I am confident that this piece of legislation will inspire other parts of the world to help us achieve a sustainable energy future" concludes Prof. Zervos.

EREC, the European Renewable Energy Council, is the umbrella organisation of the major European renewable energy industry, trade and research associations active in the field of photovoltaics, small hydropower, solar thermal, bioenergy, ocean & marine, geothermal, wind energy, solar thermal electricity and biofuels. It represents an industry with an annual turnover of more than 40 billion € and more than 400.000 employees.