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**President**  
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# Press Release

## Agreement For New Opportunities in Renewable Energy - EREC and ISES Sign Strategic Partnership

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*After several joint initiatives in the past, the **European Renewable Energy Council (EREC)**, an umbrella organization of the leading European renewable energy industry, trade and research organizations, and **International Solar Energy Society (ISES)** - a global NGO focused on advancing renewable energy - have recently signed an agreement to cement the cooperation between the two organizations.*

Prof. Arthouros Zervos, President of EREC, and Prof. Anne Grete Hestnes, President of ISES, are delighted with the agreement, signed at the Renewable Energy House in Brussels. Future projects and initiatives will be launched to promote worldwide development of RES.

Renewable energy represents an important priority in developmental policies in Europe. The Union leads the way in the implementation of environmentally sound energy technologies. Renewable energy is necessary to reach the 8% reduction in Greenhouse gases targeted by the EU under the Kyoto Protocol, while at the same time it offers increased security of energy supply. Moreover, renewable energy creates a net improvement in job opportunities. However, pro-

active actions are required to reach Europe's targets. Strategic synergies, such as the agreement between EREC and ISES, are therefore highly relevant.

“Our organisations have joined forces before, notably to create and disseminate a master plan for the effective and responsible export of renewable energy technologies from Europe”, Prof. Arthouros Zervos commented. “The signing of a concrete agreement opens the way for new joint initiatives and projects, both within Europe and internationally. Cross-border and sharing of expertise are crucial to ensure the competitiveness of the European RET industry, as well as economic and social welfare in Europe and worldwide.”

**EREC** is the umbrella organisation of the leading European renewable energy industry and research associations. Its activities include policy advice on all aspects related to renewables, awareness raising and information dissemination on renewable energy. Other main objectives include the promotion of European exports of renewable energy equipment, products and services, and the provision of consultancy to political decision makers at national and European levels on issues related to renewable energies. Based in Brussels, EREC has close links to the European institutions (<http://www.erec-renewables.org>).

**ISES** is an international, UN-accredited NGO with offices in more than 50 countries, and with its headquarters in Freiburg, Germany. ISES is a membership organisation with roots in scientific and technological development, and has advanced the development and implementation of RETs since 1954. (<http://www.ises.org>)

“Europe will play a worldwide leading role in climate change issues. The potential for the development of renewable energy sources is huge if the political will is there”, said Christine Lins, Secretary General of EREC. “EREC and ISES will play a leading role in the further up-take of renewable energies to achieve a sustainable and environmentally sound energy development strategy for Europe and the world”.

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