



## European Renewable Energy Council

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### **“Moving beyond business-as-usual is vital for Europe’s industrial leadership”**

**Brussels, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011.** Today’s Commission Communication entitled “A roadmap for moving to a low carbon economy in 2050” confirms that the EU’s greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target of 20% will be achieved with existing policies by 2020. It outlines, however, that a reduction of at least 25% in 2020 is needed in order to achieve the Union’s objective of reducing GHG emissions by 80-95% by 2050.

**The European Renewable Energy Council (EREC) believes that a legally binding energy savings target alongside a 30% emissions reduction target for 2020 is needed. EREC also emphasised the need for a binding 2030 target for renewables as a vital step towards achieving the GHG milestone identified in the roadmap.**

“The Commission’s analysis confirms that the current 20% greenhouse gas reduction target is less than business as usual: fully implementing both the ETS and Renewables Directive would already deliver that goal”, said Arthouros Zervos, the President of the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC).

“The EU must raise the current GHG target to 30% by 2020 in order to provide a strong carbon signal and maintain the EU’s momentum in support of its most promising industries.”

In addition to a unilateral move to 30% GHG domestic reduction, the President of EREC, Arthouros Zervos, underlined the need for establishing a next concrete intermediary step towards 2050 supporting the milestones identified in the Communication: “In order to deliver our 2050 emission target, the EU should continue its successful approach and quickly proceed with fixing an ambitious and binding renewable energy target for 2030, instead of reiterating unspecific low-carbon rhetoric, thus, continuing Europe’s commitment towards developing this prosperous and sustainable sector and maintaining its technological and industrial leadership.”

“By underlining the role of energy efficiency to deliver higher GHG emission cuts actually strengthens the case for a legally binding energy savings target. A call from the Commission for a binding goal would have been needed now”, emphasised Arthouros Zervos, referring to the Commission’s Energy Efficiency Plan released at the same time as the Low Carbon Roadmap.

“We certainly need a tightening of the emission trading scheme. The current ETS does not provide sufficient incentive to drive investments into a renewable energy system”, stressed Arthouros Zervos. In May 2010 the Commission indicated that up to 800 million excess allowances could lead to an artificially low carbon price.

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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 €70 billion and more than 550.000 employees.