



For information please contact:
Lucie Tesnière, Policy Advisor
Tel.: +32 2 400.1070
Email: tesniere@erec.org

Horizon 2020: Increase in energy research funding not enough

Brussels, 30th November 2011: The European Commission unveiled today its proposals for Horizon 2020 - the successor to the Seventh Framework Programme for Research - containing a proposal of about €6bn to be put towards non nuclear energy research funding.

“The European Commission has increased energy research funding going to non-nuclear energy in Horizon 2020 to about €6bn. Although considerably increased compared to the current period, this amount is not enough to match with the increasing importance of renewable energy in our energy mix,” said EREC Policy Adviser Lucie Tesnière. “Funding going to non-nuclear energy research represents roughly about 7.5% of the overall R&D funding planned within Horizon 2020. This percentage fails to reflect the increasing importance of energy as a political priority on the European agenda. With the adoption of the climate and energy package and the 2020 climate and energy targets as well as the SET Plan, EREC feels that funding for renewable energy should be representative of the EU’s commitments”. Only by investing in R&D will Europe be able to keep its technological leadership in an increasingly competitive environment.

For the implementation of the **Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan)**, the regulation rightly acknowledges that investments in research and innovation at the level of the European Union are needed but fails however to send a clear signal by dedicating a specific budget.

As far as the **Intelligent Energy Europe programme** is concerned, EREC regrets that that it is not attributed a clear identity within Horizon 2020, as well as a clear budget line, thus reducing its visibility. The programme actively contributes to the achievement of the 2020 renewable energy targets by addressing non-technological barriers.