EREC forced into liquidation

Brussels. 7th March 2014. An Extraordinary General Assembly of the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC) taking place in Brussels on 6th March decided the “voluntary” dissolution of the non-profit organisation after over a decade of existence.

“Yesterday, EREC was forced to decide to go into liquidation mainly due to its high liabilities arising from its lease obligations for the three large office buildings which make up the Renewable Energy House, 63-67 rue d’Arlon in Brussels – despite all our efforts to find and negotiate a viable solution for EREC with all the parties involved“, declared Rainer Hinrichs-Rahlwes, President of the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC).

The Renewable Energy House (REH) was inaugurated in 2006 as a showcase for sustainable energy with EREC as the main tenant of all three buildings until 2032. This was the result of a challenging project proposal by HRH Prince Laurent of Belgium the previous year: to turn a then 140 year old neoclassical building into a living renewable energy and energy efficiency showcase in the heart of Brussels.

“It is therefore particularly regrettable and somewhat ironic that, although the REH itself is running fine and is a testament to the reliability of our technologies, the lease agreement of the building has now turned out to be the cause of the demise of the organisation that the REH was intended to serve“, said Hinrichs-Rahlwes.

“The ultimately inevitable dissolution of EREC could not come at a more inappropriate time“, added Hinrichs-Rahlwes. “Without a strong sense of collaboration, the European renewable energy sector will lose ground to competing and ever more desperate fossil fuel and nuclear industries and their lobbies“, warned Hinrichs-Rahlwes.

“It is in the interest of both our common sustainable future and the renewable energy sector as a whole to be united and therefore not in competition for policy support and public acceptance. The last decade has shown us what a high level of consensus and cooperation can achieve. With the umbrella organisation dissolved, it will be much more challenging to achieve the necessary decisions towards a favourable investment climate for the renewable energy sector in Europe“, Hinrichs-Rahlwes finished.

For further background information, please refer to the Press Statement.