



**European Renewable Energy Council**

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**EREC PRESS RELEASE**

**EREC broadly supports the Turmes report adopted by the Energy Committee  
of the European Parliament**

**Brussels, 11th of September 2008 - EREC welcomes the strong signal sent by the Energy Committee of the European Parliament on the Renewable Energy Directive. "The efforts made by all political groups to find compromises on the most important issues have led to significantly positive results on most issues," says EREC Policy Director Oliver Schäfer. "The Rapporteur has done an excellent work in reaching such a strong cross-party agreement. However", says Oliver Schäfer, "provisions adopted on biofuels will prevent the EU from replacing fossil fuels in the transport sector".**

Concerning **flexibility mechanisms**, the report provides flexibility for Member States and removes the legal uncertainties of the Commission's proposal. "This is crucial to ensure investors' security", says Oliver Schäfer. "Governments – with this proposal- will also be able to maintain control over their targets and policies to achieve them". Binding provisions on priority access to the electricity grid are maintained. "This is essential for the development of renewable electricity", adds Oliver Schäfer.

"Members of the European Parliament have opted for a stronger regulation on **renewable energy obligation in buildings**" says EREC Policy Director "whereby new and refurbished buildings should have a minimum level of their energy coming from renewables". "This is a very welcomed and logic pathway to truly integrate renewables into our daily lives".

Last but not least, EREC supports strong **sustainability criteria** for biofuels. However, "we regret that the greenhouse gas savings are set too high from the very first entry into force of the Directive thereby not giving time to the industry to adapt", says EREC Policy Director. More, "setting an interim target for renewable energies in transport which is lower than the present target for biofuels in the existing Biofuels Directive- bears no logic. The ultimate goal is to produce biofuels in

a sustainable way, which we clearly can. The more we produce sustainable biofuels, the better”.

“This strong cross-party agreement in the Committee sends a very strong signal to the Council to quickly move forward in line with the Parliament’s approach. However, we hope that on biofuels some corrections will be made”, concludes EREC Policy Director.

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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 and biofuels. It represents an industry with an annual turnover of more than 40 billion € and more than 350.000 employees.

EREC represents:

- AEBIOM (European Biomass Association)
- eBIO (European Bioethanol Fuel Association)
- EGEC (European Geothermal Energy Council)
- EPIA (European Photovoltaic Industry Association)
- EREF (European Renewable Energies Federation)
- ESHA (European Small Hydropower Association)
- ESTELA (European Solar Thermal Electricity Association)
- ESTIF (European Solar Thermal Industry Federation)
- EUBIA (European Biomass Industry Association)
- EU-OEA (European Ocean Energy Association)
- EUREC Agency (European Renewable Energy Research Centres Agency)
- EWEA (European Wind Energy Association)