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Press Release

International conference “RES for Islands, Tourism and Desalination” taking place on 26-28th May in Crete to promote Renewable Energies and Clean Water production on islands

May 26th, 2003

*EREC, the European Renewable Energy Council, in collaboration with INSULA, the International Scientific Council for Island Development, and RENES, the Renewable Energy Sources Unit of the National Technical University of Athens, are the promoters of the international conference “**RES for Islands, Tourism and Desalination**” starting today. 170 participants from all five continents met at Hersonissos (Crete) joining together strong knowledge in the three conference focuses: islands, tourism and desalination.*

The three-day conference on the island of Crete aims at offering a platform of discussion, based on the share of experiences among renewable energy technology experts and island policy decision-makers, as well as at identifying suitable applications of RES technologies on islands. Crete was chosen as conference venue because the island is an example of great achievements in recent years in terms of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

“The fact that the conference regroups renewable energy technology experts from so many parts of the world on the topic “islands, tourism and desalination” is a great news: it shows that there is an opportunity, if not an urgent need, to share

experiences in this field of renewable energy sources to push forward and elaborate global strategies for the implementation of clean solutions for islands, and to solve the energy constraints”, says Arthouros Zervos, President of EREC.

As a main result of the conference, a Forum will be launched on “**Island Authorities and Sustainable Tourist Destinations in favour of Renewable Energies and Clean Water production**” in order to create continuity in inter-island cooperation. “The main objective of such a Forum”, states Cipriano Marin, Vice-Secretary General of INSULA “is to combine the needs for a sustainable island management, particularly as concerns the prospect of offering quality for islands` tourism, with the introduction of renewable energy, clean water production and clean transport solutions “. This forum will be open to authorities of tourist island destinations pursuing active strategies for the promotion of renewable energy.

Organisers:

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 renewable energy, awareness raising and information dissemination on renewable energy. (www.erec-renewables.org).

INSULA is a non-governmental organisation whose aim is to contribute to raise island awareness and develop islands` common future, supporting necessary cooperation and information actions in the scientific and technological fields. (www.insula.org)

RENES is a unit within the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) for the studying and promotion of renewable energy sources, grouping all the educational and research activities of NTUA on renewable energy sources and their applications. The unit has developed cooperation with a wide network of external associates from the private and the public sector. (www.ntua.gr/renes/renesgrk)

For further information or to obtain the conference proceedings, please contact:

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