



NEWS RELEASE

EREC – European Renewable Energy Council

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RES Heating: Now the Commission has to act!

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Today the European Parliament adopted with broad majority the Initiative Report on Renewable Heating and Cooling. The report calls on the European Commission to present a Directive Proposal for the promotion of renewable heating and cooling, in order to substantially contribute to "securing European energy supplies and to significantly reduce Europe's dependence on oil and gas in particular".

EREC welcomes the vote in the Parliament on this important report. EREC's Policy Director Oliver Schäfer: "We are glad that the Parliament took the initiative in this important field. We are now awaiting a concrete legislative proposal within this year, as was announced by Commissioner Piebalgs."

Europe claims to be at the forefront of renewable energy development worldwide, which is true. But looking at the facts Europe is only at the forefront of developing renewable electricity markets so far. This is a good and important start, but it is simply not enough. In order to develop the full potential of renewables, clear and coherent legislative action is needed in the field of renewable heating and cooling as well.

Nearly half of the European energy consumption is needed in the heating sector, but there is not yet one piece of legislation on European level in place that aims to increase the share of renewable heating and cooling production.

The report calls for effective targets for the share of renewables heating and cooling in order to at least double the share by 2020.

Schäfer adds: "Effective targets should be binding targets for the Member States. Unfortunately the Parliament was not brave enough to clarify this, but in fact this report is great news."

The report does not suggest a harmonisation of support schemes at EU level; it proposes to agree on general principles for the support schemes to be adopted and implemented by the Member States and on a menu of suggested instruments, like tax breaks, financial incentives or regulatory measures. It also proposes measures to reduce the administrative barriers to the use of renewable heating and cooling.

EREC's position paper on renewables heating and cooling: [Joint Declaration for a European Directive to Promote Renewable Heating and Cooling](#)

For more information please visit www.erec-renewables.org

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