



NEWS RELEASE

EREC – European Renewable Energy Council

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European Heads of States back the Commission strategy to set binding targets for renewable energy

EREC welcomes the principle of having a binding target of 20% renewable energy by 2020. But now the concrete work has to start and the necessary measures to reach the target need to be implemented quickly.

“We welcome this clear signal for changing our energy supply structure. The Council followed the call from its citizens and opted for clean, reliable, innovative and sustainable energy sources. This step today was only possible because of the Commissions efforts, now we hope that they will continue the follow-up with the same motivation. We need to go ahead with full speed in implementing the legislative framework, which will guarantee that renewable energy in all its sectors and potentials will be exploited.” said EREC President Arthouros Zervos.

The setting of an ambitious target does not automatically deliver the results. It is a start of a legislative process in which a clear strategy needs to back-up the goals. It is crucial to translate the goal of 20% renewables by 2020 into different binding national targets. A legislative framework which respects the different sectors in renewable energy (heating/cooling, electricity and biofuels) needs to follow as soon as possible. Especially the already existing and successful legislation in renewable electricity and biofuels needs to be maintained and strengthened without a new approach in order to not create uncertainty about their future.

Effective policy instruments for the support of renewable heating and cooling need to be incorporated in the strategy.

“Now the Institutions should not waste time and deliver the results which the heads of states are expecting. We hope that there will be no long-lasting discussions about the concrete future framework and that existing and successful legislation in the EU and in Member States will be maintained.” Arthouros Zervos added.

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, biomass, geothermal and wind energy. It represents an industry with an annual turnover of more than 20 billion and more than 300.000 employees.