THE PLEDGE OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY FOR COPENHAGEN & BEYOND

- A global solution on how to mitigate climate change must be reached at Copenhagen otherwise Climate Change will overwhelm human civilisation.

- A common but differentiated effort between industrialised and developing countries is needed. Industrialised countries must commit to at least 40% emissions cuts by 2020, compared to 1990 levels. Developing countries should achieve at least 15-30% deviation from projected greenhouse gas emissions growth by 2020.

- Ambitious short term targets are crucial to counteract high-carbon development. An increase in global temperature of even 1.5°C could lead to irreversible impacts and 2°C risks triggering runaway Climate Change. A global plan is needed to ensure that global emissions peak by 2015 and be as close to zero as possible by 2050, compared to 1990 levels.

- Industrialised countries must provide adequate and predictable funding to support renewable energy and energy efficiency.

- Well functioning carbon markets and sectoral agreements currently, the cost of Climate Change is carried by society as a whole. Carbon markets can help affect that cost to the actual emitter, giving the necessary signal to move away from polluting practices towards more efficient technologies such as renewable energy and energy efficiency.

- Renewable energy should be included in any Climate Change Mitigation strategy as it provides a significant part of GHG reductions.

“The primary scarcity facing the planet is not of natural resources nor money, but time.” (International Energy Agency - World Energy Outlook, 2007)

WHO WE ARE

EREC is the umbrella organisation of the leading European renewable energy industry, trade and research associations active in the sectors of photovoltaic, wind, small hydropower, biomass, biofuels, concentrated solar power, solar thermal and geothermal energy, thus representing the entire renewable energy sector. EREC shares its offices with its member associations in the Renewable Energy House in Brussels, a model showcase for integration of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies in a historic building. It represents an industry with an annual turnover of €45 billion and more than 450,000 employees.

EREC’s members:

- AEBIOM (European Biomass Association)
- EBB (European Biodiesel Board)
- 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 Association of Renewable Energy Research Centres)
- EWEA (European Wind Energy Association)

For more information on EREC and its members, please visit www.erec.org
RENEWABLES BREAK THE CLIMATE LOCK

CLIMATE BACKGROUND
The 192 nations party to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) are meeting in December 2009 to decide how to improve the climate regime after the Kyoto Protocol’s first commitment period ends in 2012. Two years following the publication of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 4th Assessment Report, and as reported by a congress of climate scientists in Copenhagen this March, the climate crisis is deepening: oceans are acidifying and ice caps are melting much quicker than initially anticipated, thermal expansion of water has been underestimated and current emission trends are steadily following the worst of the IPCC scenarios, with dramatic implications.

Although the first step to a global emission reduction regime was taken with the Kyoto Protocol, the approach has failed to constrain the overall rise of global GHGs. The Stern Review[1] estimates that stabilisation of greenhouse gases at 450 ppm CO₂e would cost, on average, around 1% of annual global GDP by 2050, a level that is “significant but manageable”, not much compared to inaction – “Delay would be costly and dangerous.” This is significant, but it is fully consistent with continued growth and development, in contrast with unabated climate change, which will eventually pose significant threats to growth[2] (Stern 2008).

For the lowest mitigation scenario category assessed in IPCC’s 4th Assessment Report (CO₂e concentration 445 – 490 ppm), emissions would need to peak by 2015, to 445 ppm by 2050. The Stern Review notes this “is...