



NEWS RELEASE

EREC – European Renewable Energy Council

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- The briefing paper “**Renewable Energy Target for Europe – 20% by 2020**” is available at www.erec-renewables.org

NEW EUROPEAN RENEWABLES TARGET: “20% by 2020”

Berlin / Brussels, 21st January 2004 --- The outcome of the European Conference for Renewable Energy “Intelligent Policy Options” ended with the unanimous conclusion to proceed without delay in setting new ambitious targets for 2020 – as proposed by the “20% by 2020” EREC projection briefing. This will be the EU input to the Renewables 2004 Conference in Bonn in June 2004.

Over 650 participants from 45 countries attending the Berlin European Conference for Renewable Energy “Intelligent Policy Options” agreed that new targets beyond 2010 are needed to provide medium and long-term investment security, and a substantial increase in the use of renewables energies is essential to achieving sustainable development at local, national, European and global levels.

The longer-term assessment of the potential for renewable energy sources in Europe (1) was carried out by EREC - the European Renewable Energy Council - the umbrella group representing renewable industry and trade and research associations, and the key findings were presented at the Berlin Conference.

“We demonstrated how a target value of at least 20% of energy consumption by 2020 for the EU is achievable, and we see the willingness in the EU to promote such target as a major achievement. An increased share of renewable energies would increase energy autonomy, and improve the security of the energy supply in Europe, in economies of transition, and in developing countries, where it would also help to provide access to energy in support of poverty eradication and thus create economic development”, said Prof. Arthouros Zervos, President of EREC.

The Berlin Conference conclusions stress that *“to increase the use of renewables forms part of the strategy of the European Union and other countries for sustainable development, climate change prevention, economic growth and social cohesion. The threat of climate change demands that the renewable energy share of the total European global energy consumption be substantially increased as a matter of urgency”. (2)*

Meeting the 20% by 2020 targets would bring along equally important benefits, such as avoided fuel costs of more than €100 billion, CO₂ reductions of over 700Mt/year (representing ca. 17% of 1990 emissions), saved external costs of up to €300 billion and extra employment of 2 million people.

However, certain issues still need to be tackled in order to achieve a substantial increase in the share of renewables, such as: setting targets for growth; stable policy framework for security of investment; creating a level playing field; tackle administrative and grid barriers through the strict enforcement of regulatory frameworks; create frameworks for accelerating the growth of market for renewable heating and cooling; expand the financial support for research and development (R&D).

Notes to Editors:

(1) 2020 target projections by technology

TYPE OF ENERGY	2000		TARGETS 2010		TARGETS 2020	
	Eurostat Convention	% of total	Eurostat Convention	% of total	Eurostat Convention	% of total
Total Gross Inland Consumption	1,455		1,576 (trends to 2030)		1,576	
1. Wind	1.92	0.13	14.4	0.91	38	2.4
2. Hydro	27.6	1.9	30.6	1.94	33	2.1
3. Photovoltaics	0.01	-	0.3	0.02	3.6	0.2
4. Biomass	54.5	3.73	125.5	7.96	205	13.0
5. Geothermal	3.32	0.22	6.2	0.4	12.4	0.8
6. Solar Thermal Collectors	0.38	0.02	3	0.2	24	1.5
Total Renewable Energies	87.8	6.0	180	11.43	316	20.0

(2) The conclusions from the Berlin European Conference for Renewable Energy "Intelligent Policy Options" are available at www.erec-renewables.org.