



## NEWS RELEASE

EREC – European Renewable Energy Council

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## European Conference for Renewable Energy - Intelligent Policy Options - *Berlin 19-21 January 2004*

### EUROPE'S RENEWABLE ENERGY KEY-PLAYERS MEET TO PAVE THE WAY FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE

**Berlin/Brussels, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2004** - Over 600 participants from more than 45 countries are attending the three-days European Conference for Renewable Energy – Intelligent Policy Options opening today in Berlin. At this event - one of the most important in years for the European renewable energy community -, European political representatives will debate crucial issues if renewables are to make more progress, especially how they can establish a stronger position in the global energy market. The conference's conclusions will provide Europe's input to the Global Conference for Renewable Energies to be held in Bonn next June.

#### Key questions to be answered at the Berlin's conference are:

- How can Europe achieve its ambitious renewable energy targets, and encourage other regions of the world to follow?
- What political frameworks, regulation and incentives are needed if renewables are to take off as a serious challenge to conventional energy sources?
- What lesson can be learned from the European experience so far?

At the opening, Günther Hanreich, Director within DG Energy and Transport of the European Commission, reminded that "renewable energy is in line with the European Union strategy for sustainable development and economic and social growth, as well as with the efforts and commitments to tackle climate change at worldwide level".

Jürgen Trittin, German Federal Minister for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, said that "progressively, Member States recognize that it is a chance and a duty that European renewable energy policy is translated into effective measures at national level.

MEP Mechtild Rothe reminded that "*it is important to adopt an integrated approach when implementing renewable energy and energy efficiency policy to meet the international EU commitments resulting from Kyoto, as well as the EU targets as set out in the White Paper and other Community legislation*".

*"Renewable energy is already a 10 billion € industry and provides jobs for 200,000 people. It is progressively recognized by a larger audience to present a solution for the diversification and*

*security of energy supply in Europe and to create jobs. Renewables represent an opportunity to provide energy in support of poverty eradication, and are the main instrument to combat climate change”, said Prof. Arthouros Zervos, President of the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC) at the opening of the conference. “However, only clearly-set and ambitious time-bound targets at national, European and global level will guarantee a substantial increase of renewable energy sources in the global share, making these policies a success”.*

The three day conference is organized in 10 highly-interactive panels, regrouping more than 70 high-level panelists from all sectors of the business community (representatives from the industry, NGOs and other renewable energy stakeholders, as well as political decision makers) and will discuss the most important policy issues related to the development of renewable energies. The discussions range from the impact assessment of the European Renewable Energy Campaign for Take-Off to existing and needed legislation promoting RES and will lead to new recommendations for “Intelligent policy options” for further growth of renewable energy technologies. Possible new targets for renewables in Europe by 2020 will be discussed, as targets are an important policy instrument and a prerequisite to secure stable framework conditions for private-sector investments.

Conclusions of each session can be downloaded from the managenergy ([www.managenergy.org](http://www.managenergy.org)) and the EREC website ([www.erec-renewables.org](http://www.erec-renewables.org)) at the end of each day of the conference. Conference Conclusions will be formulated which will serve as input for Europe for the International Conference for Renewable Energies (Bonn, June 2004), taking hence the opportunity to confirm the forefront position of Europe as concerns renewable energy development world-wide, and its leading experience in the formulation of proactive policy measures in this area.