

# EREF

European Renewable Energies Federation

## Press Declaration 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2010

### Rainer Hinrichs-Rahlwes elected as new EREF President

On the occasion of EREF's annual General Assembly held on 20<sup>th</sup> May in Paris / France, Rainer Hinrichs-Rahlwes was unanimously elected new President of the European Renewable Energies Federation (EREF). He succeeds Dr. Nikos Vassilakos who stepped down as EREF president in March 2010 due to his appointment as Chairman of the Greek National Regulatory Authority for Energy.

“Despite the Renewables Directive being in place now and despite some progress made in limiting market failure and market abuse by incumbent utilities, there is still a long way ahead of us. And there are barriers to be removed which are favouring the existing centralized energy system based on fossil and nuclear to the detriment of the further deployment of renewable energies”, underlines Rainer Hinrichs-Rahlwes. He is convinced that the market dominance of the incumbent oligopolies is a major barrier against a level playing field for renewable energies, just as there are still plenty of direct and hidden subsidies for fossil and nuclear energy, which have to be removed.

In his view, a true level playing field in Europe's energy market is one of the major challenges to be met for further growth of renewables, just as the existing grid infrastructure was designed for big centralized power plants needs to be adapted to a modern energy supply based on renewable energies sources.

In the next few years, EREF will therefore focus its activities on closely watching the development in the energy markets and energy policies and make the independent power producers' voice heard when it comes to securing and further developing successful support mechanisms for paving the way for renewable energy as long as markets are disturbed.

During his professional career, Rainer Hinrichs-Rahlwes has long since developed a focus on energy and environmental issues, in particular the promotion of renewable energies. Before he joined the German Renewable Energy Federation (BEE) as Board Member and spokesperson for European and international affairs, he served as Director General in the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). He was one of the two chairmen of the International Steering Committee preparing the renewables2004-conference in Bonn and also engaged in the follow-up process as a co-chair of the interim steering committee for the Global Policy Network - now known as REN21.

EREF – Brussels Representative Office  
Avenue de la Fauconnerie 73, B-1170 Brussels  
Tel.: + 32 2 6724367, Fax: +32 2 6727016  
[www.eref-europe.org](http://www.eref-europe.org)

For many years, Rainer Hinrichs-Rahlwes has been providing his expertise to EREF, since 2008 as a Vice President.

Mr. Hinrichs-Rahlwes' presidency will be supported by the four Vice-presidents Peter Danielsson (SERO - Sweden), Antonio Sá da Costa (APREN- Portugal), Stefan Hantsch (IG Windkraft – Austria) and Daniel Soreau (EAF- France) and the other Board Members: Silvia Pilarsky-Grosch (BWE- Germany), Claudia Grotz (BWE, Germany), Preben Maegaard (Folkecenter, Denmark), Claudius da Costa Gomez (Fachverband Biogas e.V.-Germany), Piotr Wisniewski (PIGEO- Poland), Savvas Seimanides (Greek Association of RES Electricity Producers - Greece) and industry representative Klaus Hofmann (Schott AG - Germany).