

EREF Press Declaration

regarding

The European Commission's Energy Roadmap 2050

Brussels, December 15, 2011

“The Commission's Energy Roadmap 2050 **regrettably fails** to focus on necessary energy system changes towards renewables and efficiency **by once more underestimating the potentials of renewable energy sources and by exaggerating their costs.**” EREF President Rainer Hinrichs-Rahlwes commented.

With the Energy Roadmap 2050 released today, the Commission seeks to explore the challenges posed by delivering the EU's aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 80-95% below 1990 levels in 2050 while ensuring security of energy supply and competitiveness and to show what the future energy supply of the EU might look like, assuming certain decarbonisation routes are being taken.

However, while the Communication should generally be welcomed as a step into the right direction, by addressing necessary changes in the energy market design and discussing milestones for 2030, the assumption of reaching only about 30% RE in 2030 is definitely not ambitious. **“We believe that a 45% minimum target for 2030 should be the way forward,”** the EREF President declared. Furthermore, in particular the accompanying Impact Assessment discloses some flawed assumptions and dubious peculiarities.

EREF is particularly astonished that – although all decarbonisation scenarios show significant savings as compared to the Current Policy Scenarios – of all scenarios the High Renewables Scenario should be the most expensive one. “Seeking for an explanation, we found that **various assumptions are just wrong or at least inconsistent.** Presumptions for balancing power and infrastructure needs are simply not reasonable and exaggerated. While on the other hand, the costs for renewable technologies will continue to show **steep learning curves allowing for more savings.**”

“The potentials and development of fossils and nuclear in the Roadmap are **simply wishful thinking**”, said Hinrichs-Rahlwes. “For instance, the scenarios seem to suggest that CCS would capture about 93% of the carbon emissions and each plant would be CCS equipped. This is just unrealistic. And it will remain the **Commission's secret** how – after Fukushima, and not to forget Chernobyl – they can even think of including significant capacities of new nuclear in any scenario. This is **irresponsible and far from reality.**”

While the Commission acknowledges the importance of renewable energy for the future European Energy supply, there still is no real understanding of their potential and their ability to decentralize energy production and consumption: the High RES scenario only leads to about 75% renewables in the entire energy sector. No wonder, as – strikingly – the great potential of the heating and cooling sector is hardly considered at all. Other concerns arise with the Commission's felt need for special assessment for storage and interconnector capacities only for the High RES scenario – or for the entirely separate and unexplained calculation of prices.

“While the Roadmap 2050 shows that our future will be based on renewables and efficiency, it **should have been more ambitious and more consistent**. It is a step forward – but it also clearly shows the importance of the work of national and European renewables associations: we shall show that **a 100% renewables future is not only possible, but in fact the best and most cost efficient option**,” the EREF president concluded.

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