

# EREF



European Renewable Energies Federation

## Position Paper

### Independent RES Producers' Requirements for the Comprehensive Renewable Energies (RE2020) Directive

The Heads of State and Government of the European Union have agreed on the binding target for 2020 to reach at least a 20% share of renewable energies (RES) in overall energy consumption and a minimum share of 10% for biofuels in each member state.

#### EREF's overall demands for the way ahead

We ask from the European Commission the European Parliament, the national governments and parliaments:

- Be courageous in making this positive decision by the Council happen
- Ensure an administrative and legal environment that guarantees access for independent RES production on the overall energy market
- Ensure long-term legal stability for the sake of investors' security in RES industry
- Deliver on long-term promise for a specific mechanism to push for RES- Heating and Cooling Promotion
- Completely unbundle all high and medium voltage transmission and distribution grids from the production unit of utilities
- Strive for grid enforcement and trans-border grid connections worth their name
- Be courageous in turning around oligopolistic market structures of the incumbent industries in EU 27
- Phase out all harmful subsidies to the nuclear and fuel sector in order to create a level playing field for independent RES producers
- Encourage local and regional supply and demand structures in energy

## National targets until 2020

We expect the 27 member states to quickly decide on their respective national targets. Balanced proposals tabled by the Commission – preferably before the summer break – can accelerate this process. Member state targets have to be elaborated differentiated for the three sectors electricity, heat and fuels and underpinned by appropriate instruments. The national action plans (or national growth strategies) demanded by the European Council have to be elaborated and presented to the European Commission without delay.

## European Legislation

A proposal for the RE2020 directive including the different national targets and the different sectors should be tabled by the Commission not later than in autumn 2007. Legislation procedures involving the European Parliament have to be finished in 2008.

In order to avoid breaks and frictions the main elements of the RES -Electricity Directive and the Biofuels Directive have to be smoothly incorporated in the comprehensive legal basis, and a legal framework for heating and cooling from renewable sources has to be added.

The existing instruments have to remain in force and to be actively applied until they will eventually have been replaced by new legislation. In particular, regular reports on target reaching have to be included in the new comprehensive directive. Interim targets for the European Union as a whole and for each member state - at least for 2015 - should be fixed for overall energy consumption and the different sectors, taking the existing 2010 targets from the electricity and biofuels directives as starting points for further growth.

The following corner stones for the directive are of paramount importance:

- National overall targets and respective growth strategies should to be proposed on a sectoral basis. They have to be adopted by the Commission and will then become legally binding as part of the directive. Insufficient efforts to reach the targets as well as missing the binding national overall target will be subject to formal infringement procedures.
- Regular interim reports on reaching national overall and sectoral targets have to be presented by all member states. They must include, where necessary, further promising measures to reach the binding targets. They have to be evaluated by the Commission. If necessary, infringement procedures have to be opened without delay against member states which are not on track for their national targets.
- Proven elements of the existing directives (target setting and mandatory reports from member states about target reaching, reports and proposals from the Commission for better target reaching, support instruments to be chosen by member states, as long as target reaching is likely, guarantees of origin, removal of legal barriers, grid connection regulations) are to be maintained and also introduced into the heating and cooling regulations.

- Irrespective of continued use of different support instruments in different member states and different sectors, the road should be paved for a general priority regulation for renewable energies. A clarification that such a regulation is not in conflict with state aid regulations could be included in the renewable energies directive and/or in a revised version of the state aid guidelines.
- A procedure for regular development of national and sectoral action plans and for the decision process on renewable energy targets beyond 2020, should – like in the existing electricity directive – be foreseen in the comprehensive renewable energy directive. Accordingly, the decision process on targets for 2030 and/or beyond has to be completed not later than 2017.

(June 2007)