

EREF

European Renewable Energies Federation

Press declaration 9th of February 2007

Binding Sectoral Targets for Renewables needed - EU Mid-February Council must show courage – for renewables, for the environment and for jobs in Europe

Renewable energy is the prime solution for the European quest for energy security, reduction of energy import dependency, climate protection, sustainability, industrial and technology leadership, economic growth and fulfilment of Europe's Lisbon strategy.

Therefore we welcome the European Parliament's unanimous vote for 35 % sectoral targets for renewable electricity, 25 % for renewable heating/cooling and 12,5 % for biofuels until 2020.

We welcome the option for unbundling in the presently distorted overall energy market.

Accordingly we also welcome the proposed Commission's binding sectoral targets for biofuels and demand that policies ensure sustainability in this sector.

But we demand Europe should re-insure sectoral targets not only for biofuels but for the electricity and heating/cooling sector as well.

We welcome that the preparatory meeting for the Mid February Energy Council made it clear that many countries rethink on indicative sectoral targets and ending the attempt of the European Commission for a global target approach.

We hope the February Energy Council will show courage and will

- **vote for binding sectoral targets for renewables until 2020 and**
- **vote for maintaining the current set of legislation for Renewable Electricity and for biofuels but to amend and improve them concerning the time after 2010 and**
- **will demand from the Commission to come up with a proposal for a RES-Heat/Directive Directive still before summer break this year**

We do not believe that the Commission's proposal for an overall global target is sufficient as long as it is not underpinned by sectoral targets for renewable electricity (RES) and renewable heating and cooling as well.

In order to realise the full potential for renewables in all EU Member States sectoral binding targets is a must. These targets have to be broken down on the national level.

**President: Peter Danielsson (SERO Sveriges Energiföreningars
RiksOrganisation, Sweden), Kungsgårdsvägen 50, S - 68154 Kristinehamn,
Tel.: +46 550 13761, Fax: +46 550 16483**

**EREF – Brussels Representative Office – Avenue de la Fauconnerie 73, B-1170 Brussels,
Dr. Dörte Fouquet, Director
Tel.: + 32 2 6724367, Fax: +32 2 6727016
www.eref-europe.org**

For many years the EU Commission has been encouraging development of Renewables in Europe. Especially the Directive for the Promotion of Renewable Energy in the Internal Electricity market (2001/77/EC) was a major and ambitious starting point for take-off of RES in Europe.

These targets and associated legal framework really helped the RES industry to grow steadily to where we are today. We now need new and ambitious sectoral targets for RES electricity and heating/cooling in addition to biofuel targets to ensure and continue this development. WE need an enforcement of the existing RES directives beyond 2010 and a swift introduction of a directive on the promotion of heating and cooling with sectoral targets.

Instead, after the proposal of the Commission, RES industry now fears investor fall-out.

Sectoral targets and related directives have guaranteed a positive environment which helped the industry to keep their promise to reduce costs and to reach competitiveness in many sectors.

All renewable technologies should have the chance to develop according to their specific needs. This chance is now jeopardised.

Without sectoral targets

- Sustainable job growth in RES industry in Europe with high local return of benefit will come to a halt and decrease.
- Sales across Europe in RES technology will not develop
- Some RES technologies maybe excluded and
- Industrial leadership will be destroyed
- Research will suffer and own research efforts done by the RES industry will be endangered
- Rapid increase in all RES sectors will be crippled
- Price reduction and swift market entrance of solar technologies will be stopped.

Would this happen the big losers would be European Energy security, climate change mitigation, Lisbon agenda and sustainability, the big winners would be the huge energy co-operations in Europe.

EREF President Peter Danielsson: “EREF - on initiative of its German solar industry member association, BSW, will start a campaign in Europe for **100 % Renewable by 2050**. - If some Member States and part of the European Commission continue to be half-hearted, hesitant, biased towards nuclear and coal and act as stumbling blocks against sustainable independent power production, they may have to face the fact that energy democracy will develop without them and despite them. European citizens have a right to own responsibility in energy supply; they want to get out of the clutches of energy oligopolies; they want sustainable and independent renewable power production, and they are always open for new good jobs. The sustainable energy caravan will continue to push forward and politicians and the Commission should better be on track here.”

President: Peter Danielsson (SERO Sveriges Energiföreningars
RiksOrganisation, Sweden), Kungsgårdsvägen 50, S - 68154 Kristinehamn,
Tel.: +46 550 13761, Fax: +46 550 16483

EREF – Brussels Representative Office – Avenue de la Fauconnerie 73, B-1170 Brussels,
Dr. Dörte Fouquet, Director
Tel.: + 32 2 6724367, Fax: +32 2 6727016
www.eref-europe.org