

EREF

European Renewable Energies Federation

Press Declaration 22nd of January 2009

At long last:

EREF welcomes IRENA – the International Renewable Energy Agency

On initiative by the German government and based on a long and engaging work by many committed politicians and stakeholders all over the world, the international community will witness next Monday, 26th of January in Bonn, a new era for public support for renewable energy, with the kick-off conference to found IRENA, the International Renewable Energy Agency.

EREF is thrilled that January 2009 already marks three important developments for the renewable energy industry and policy, on both the European and the international level:

- We got a sound new Renewable Promotion Directive for the European Union,
- The world will finally set up an International institutionalised voice, which can really focus exclusively on renewable energy,
- And under the new President Obama, the United States will move to the forefront on climate protection, security of supply and renewable energy policies and encourage many others to stay committed or increase their efforts.

The new Agency will concentrate on promoting the deployment of renewable energies worldwide, and will also aim to advise industrialised and developing countries and related industry likewise, on their optimal path and engagement for renewables. The objective is to swiftly close the gap between the almost unlimited potential of renewable energies and the still too modest share of renewable in the global energy markets.

EREF will remain an active partner for this new Agency, as we have fully supported the idea over the last few years. We encourage the governments to agree to the challenging timeframe set by the German government and to start the process of concrete organisation for this Agency by the summer of this year.

There is no time to lose, to have this important body up and running.

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