



Press release
For Immediate Release
N°701 – 11/01/2007 – Brussels

European Commission Energy Policy could have a counter-productive effect on the development of renewable energies

Brussels, 11 January - The new Energy Policy for Europe presented yesterday by the European Commission proposes a binding 20% target of renewable energies in primary energy by 2020. This apparently positive goal will, however, create increased confusion in the renewable energy sector and might undermine the existing successful legislation which has permitted a strong development of renewable energy sources.

European Commission regrettably does not endorse the European Parliament's call for sectoral targets

The Energy Policy for Europe presented by the European Commission on 10 January is clearly lacking concrete measures: nor the Energy Policy, nor the Renewable Energy Roadmap are proposing sectoral targets for renewables by 2020. Such a sectoral approach distinguishing electricity, heat and biofuels is needed to provide a clearer visibility to investors. Despite the announced willingness to follow its Green Paper on sustainable, competitive and secure energy, which was proposing sector specific targets, the EC is missing the opportunity to translate it into concrete measures and enable the development of renewable energy sources. Instead the EC is taking a vague and ambiguous commitment which compromises the long-term development of renewable energy technologies. Overall targets for all renewables will create confusion as the three types of energies are to be considered under very different perspectives.

In December 2006, the European Parliament clearly called for binding sectoral targets in order to achieve 25% of renewables in primary energy by 2020. The European Commission is not endorsing the ambitious target set by the most democratic European Institution, nor is it following its sectoral approach. "Only binding sector specific targets may contribute to a sustainable development of the solar photovoltaic electricity sector", says Eleni Despotou, EPIA policy officer.

An adapted legal framework must be maintained to further promote the development of renewable energies

The 2001 Directive for the promotion of electricity from renewable energy sources has been the most successful piece of legislation enabling an unprecedented development of all renewable electricity technologies in Europe and in particular solar photovoltaic. The 2001 framework set at European level pushed national Member States to develop supportive legal frameworks resulting in a growth by over 40% per year for solar photovoltaic electricity.

The Photovoltaic industry has become one of the most challenging sectors giving new opportunities to other sectors such as the semiconductors or the glass industry to re-boost their business in Europe. The rapid development of photovoltaic market in Europe is creating local, high-qualified jobs, boosting investments in clean technologies and stimulating innovation significantly.

The European Photovoltaic Industry Association (EPIA) believes that the expected 2007 renewable energy legislative package will provide adequate measures to further develop each renewable energy technology, according to its own potential.

The European Photovoltaic Industry Association therefore asks the European Council to follow the European Parliament's resolution to maintain the existing framework and avoid creating further uncertainty among investors.

All the related documents from the European Commission can be downloaded [here](#).

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About the European Photovoltaic Industry Association:

With almost 110 Members drawn from across the entire solar electricity sector, the European Photovoltaic Industry Association represents over 95% of the European photovoltaic industry. EPIA represents the whole value-chain of the photovoltaic industry from silicon producers, cells and module manufacturers to system providers. EPIA's mission is to deliver a distinct and valuable service driven from the strength of a single European photovoltaic voice.

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