

INFORSE-Europe Calls for Higher Targets for Renewable and Energy Efficiency for EU

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Today the European Commission (EC) released its energy strategy package to create an EU-wide energy policy. To achieve the strategy's important objectives of mitigating climate change and easing Europe's problems of security of energy supply, the EU-countries must take the lead and strengthen the proposals released today by:

- setting a target of 30% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, primarily achieved via energy efficiency and a transition the renewable energy. This will also improve security of energy supply.
- go beyond the EC's proposal of 20% renewable energy by 2020 and follow the proposal of the European Parliament of setting binding sectoral targets for renewables in order to achieve 25% of renewables in primary energy by 2020, with a road map for reaching a target for renewables of (at least) 50% by 2040. (agreed by the European Parliament 14/12 2006). As part of that they should set an EU-wide target of at least 10% renewable energy in transport, NOT a 10% biofuels targets that leaves out the options of renewable electricity and hydrogen for transport.
- set a target of 25% increase of energy efficiency by 2020, rather than the 20% proposed by the EC.
- do not use public funding for development of fossil fuel infrastructure, such as the proposed gas pipeline
- adopt measures to implement above targets, in a combination of local, national, and EU-wide measures
- start and increase international cooperation outside EU, in particular on energy efficiency and on sustainable energy for poverty reduction.
- evaluate the real costs including environmental costs of nuclear power that is not as cost-effective and carbon free as argued by the EC in today's energy strategy.

INFORSE has put forward visions and strategies how the proposed targets can be met for the EU (excluding Romania and Bulgaria) and for individual EU-countries such as Denmark, Lithuania and Romania, see <http://www.inforse.org/europe/Vision2050.htm>

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