

INFORSE-EUROPE

International Network for Sustainable Energy - Europe

SE NR: 26497531

www.inforse.org/europe

Coordinators:

X OVE - Europe

Gl. Kirkevej 82, 8530
Hjortshøj, Denmark
Ph: +45-86227000
Fax: +45-86227096
ove@inforse.org
www.orgve.dk

FAE

Godrova 3/b , 81106
Bratislava 1, Slovakia
Ph: +421-2-63-836 964
Fax: +421-2-63-836 964
fae@inforse.org
www.fae.sk

Press release by INFORSE-Europe, June 22, 2005

Welcome to the Energy Efficiency Green Paper; but Europe Must do More

International Network for Sustainable Energy - Europe welcomes the European Commission's Green Paper on Energy Efficiency, released today. It is welcome that the European Commission recognises the many benefits of achieving a 20% increase in energy efficiency above business as usual for the period 2005-2020. If realised, it will be an important step in the transition to a sustainable energy system with reduced climate impacts, and reduced supply problems.

With the current high oil-prices, also more than 20% increase in energy efficiency are cost-effective; and we must explore the opportunities for larger increases in energy efficiency.

Increase in energy efficiency of 20% or more can be realised by concerted actions of EU-institutions, countries, industries, and consumers. In addition to the proposals in the Green Paper, INFORSE-Europe would like to stress the need for the following:

- The 20% energy efficiency increase above business as usual should be a minimum target for 2020, and should be supplemented with a target for 2015, the centre year of the Kyoto Protocols second period. The target for 2015 should not be less than a 14%.
- Increased focus on end-use efficiency, also in research and development, including EUs' 7th Framework Programme(FP). This must be integrated in the proposal for the 7th FP.
- The proposed focus on small-scale sustainable energy projects must be supplemented with a clear focus of EUs' structural funds on investments in sustainable energy/ energy efficiency.
- Energy taxation must be improved to support energy efficiency, in particular by groups of EU countries using the "Enhanced co-operation", introduced by the Amsterdam Treaty.
- Energy payments must reflect energy consumption and environmental costs. Fixed payments on energy bills must be abolished.
- Introduction of energy efficiency standards and labels must be fast-track procedures, to keep pace with the rapid technological development of appliances and information technologies.

In the current situation with increasing man-made climate change, overwhelming unemployment, and upcoming energy supply problems, EU must not miss the opportunities of energy efficiency that can give one million new jobs or more, save 60 billion Euro, and help stabilise the climate.

For more information on INFORSE-Europe positions, see www.inforse.org/europe or email ove@inforse.org.