

INFORSE-EUROPE

International Network for Sustainable Energy - Europe

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INFORSE-Europe Welcomes the Decision of the EU Leaders to Increase Renewable Energy

INFORSE's Vision for Implementation will be presented on March 20, 2007 in Brussels on a Seminar organised by INFORSE, EUFORES and EREF.

At the European Council last Friday, the EU leaders agreed upon a target of 20% renewable energy in the energy supply for the 27 EU countries by 2020. Combined with the decisions of 20% increase of energy efficiency and 30% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, it is a good decision to lead Europe to a sustainable course for its energy supply.

To realise the target and to lead the EU-countries on a route towards sustainable energy systems, it is now crucial that:

- The overall EU targets are followed by national implementation strategies with adequate policy measures, as well as targets and strategies for renewable electricity and for renewable energy in heating and cooling.
- All EU policies are made to work towards the targets, including regional policies with use of structural funds, R&D programs, agricultural policies, etc.
- Sustainability criteria are followed for biofuels and other renewable energy sources to ensure that the renewables truly contribute to sustainable development. INFORSE-Europe has proposed a set of sustainability criteria for biofuels and biomass
http://www.inforse.org/europe/pdfs/biomass_criteria.pdf

INFORSE-Europe still supports a target of 25% renewable energy in 2020, as the European Parliament called for in December 2006. If measures for rapid increase of renewable energy are put in place in all 27 EU countries, following the decisions of the EU leaders, it is possible to increase the target. Examples have shown that this is possible, such as the development of wind power in several EU countries within the last decade. When an effective support mechanism is in place, as feed-in tariffs for renewable electricity, and framework conditions are enabling, the market can develop renewable energy very fast, and higher targets are possible.

INFORSE-Europe will present its vision for how the 27 EU countries together can reach 20-25% renewable energy by 2020 as part of a long-term transition to sustainable energy at the European Sustainable Energy Seminar 2007, March 20 in Brussels, see
http://www.inforse.org/europe/seminar07_BXL.htm

INFORSE-Europe is a network of 75 NGOs working for renewable energy and energy efficiency throughout Europe.

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