

# INFORSE-EUROPE

International Network for Sustainable Energy - Europe

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## **INFORSE-Europe Welcomes EU Climate and Energy Package; but the Countries must Strengthen Proposals and should not Support Carbon Capture and Storage**

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INFORSE-Europe, a network of 72 NGOs working for sustainable energy in the EU and beyond, welcomes today's package of climate and energy proposals from the European Commission. The Package includes many good elements to increase renewable energy use, and has avoided a renewable energy certificate scheme that would harm effective renewable energy support schemes. Unfortunately the Package lacks proposals to reach a 30% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, and includes a problematic proposal to allow state-aid for Carbon Sequestration and Storage. Now it is up to the countries to strengthen the proposals to reach 30% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, as agreed by the EU Prime Ministers in 2007 on the condition that an international greenhouse gas agreement is reached. Only then the EU countries can lead the way for the necessary global reductions of greenhouse gas emissions.

As part of the strengthening of the Package, INFORSE-Europe proposes that the countries go beyond the renewable energy targets proposed by the Commission. They could increase targets with 5% to reach an EU-average target of 25% in 2020 as supported by INFORSE-Europe and by the European Parliament, December 2006.

With the increasing oil prices and the objective of decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, 5% higher renewable energy targets would better fulfill EU's energy policy objectives, and reduce EU's vulnerability to increasing fossil fuel and uranium prices. If fossil fuel price trends continue, the costs estimated by the Commission<sup>1</sup> because of the Package will be replaced by gains.

Among the good proposals, INFORSE-Europe would like to point out that the Commission effectively has changed the proposed biofuel target to a target of 10% renewable energy in transport. Now the countries must embrace this move and use the opportunity to start pushing for electric and hydrogen driven vehicles. 2% of transport in the EU countries is already electrically driven and could easily be supplied with renewable electricity. Following current technological developments, public and private electric vehicles could be widely used and hydrogen vehicles could be introduced in all EU countries by 2020. INFORSE-Europe urges the countries to follow-up on the proposals with a stop for the use of unsustainable biofuels/agrofuels and with sustainability targets for transportation.

INFORSE-Europe has developed a sustainable energy vision that outlines a development path for phase out of fossil and nuclear energy until 2050 with 25% renewable energy in 2020 for EU-27.

Read more about INFORSE-Europe's positions to EU renewable energy policies, emissions trading policies, energy efficiency policies, etc. and at [www.inforce.org/europe](http://www.inforce.org/europe) or call INFORSE-Europe coordinator Gunnar Boye Olesen, ph. +45-86227000.

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission estimate is that with crude oil prices of 60 €/barrel, the Climate and Energy Package costs would reduce GDP growth 0.04 – 0.06% per year in the period 2013-2020.