



Press Release Brussels, 29th January 2008

European Parliamentarians request strong implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency policies

On January 29th 2008, the Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (IPM@EUSEW2008) organized by EUFORES brought together over 60 Parliamentarians from EU27 National Parliaments as well as the European Parliament.

The Parliamentarians discussed in two sessions the proposal of the new European Framework Directive for Renewables (RES) as well as the status of the national Energy Efficiency Action Plans.

During the meeting, **MECHTILD ROTHE**, EUFORES President and Vice-President of the European Parliament welcomed and supported the proposal on the Renewable Energy Framework Directive. The proposal, tabled by the European Commission on January 23rd 2008, includes all three sectors: electricity, transport and for the first time heating and cooling: "This long awaited proposal is better than we expected! Member States can only transfer guarantees of origin to another Member State if they have fulfilled their interim targets. Now we have to take care of the details ensuring for instance that Member States can expect a clear penalty if they do not comply with their interim targets!"

There were big concerns about tendencies within the Commission to introduce an EU-wide mandatory certificate trading scheme for renewable energy. This would have endangered and most likely destroyed successful national support schemes, such as feed-in or premium systems, which have already proven themselves as effective and cost-efficient measures of promoting a broad range of renewable energy technologies.

"I welcome, that the Commission didn't give in to the electricity lobbying from the big utilities by killing the successful guaranteed price systems, because only guaranteed price systems allow small and medium-sized enterprises to invest in this market. And these SMEs have made Europe the leader of renewable energy in the world!" said **CLAUDE TURMES**, MEP and Vice-President of EUFORES.

Parliamentarians also discussed the status of EU's energy efficiency policy. By the end of June 2007, EU Member States were expected to table their national Energy Efficiency Action Plans as laid out by the EU Energy Services Directive. So far, a few countries delivered comprehensive and promising plans to the European Commission. Many Member States are lagging behind. **MECHTILD ROTHE** stressed: "Energy efficiency has the cheapest and biggest potential for Europe to reduce energy import dependency and its CO₂-emissions. The European Union cannot accept any longer the lack of will among some Member States concerning the development and implementation of energy efficiency measures." **CLAUDE TURMES** added: "This shows again the gap between climate combat lip service and the real lack of motivation to implement necessary measures by many Member States. The Commission has to act on this with infringement procedures and new binding measures at EU level."

About EUFORES

EUFORES - the European Forum for Renewable Energy Sources - is a European parliamentary network and an independent Non-Profit Organization aimed at promoting renewable energy in Europe.

EUFORES - European Forum for Renewable Energy Sources

Renewable Energy House, Rue d'Arlon 63-65, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium

Tel.: +32(2)5461948, Fax: +32(2)5461934; E-mail: eufores@eufores.org; www.eufores.org

The IPM@EUSEW 2008 is key-supported by:

