

Dear members, dear friends,

Please find below the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the AER Newsletter on Energy informing you on recent developments, AER foreseen activities and upcoming events in Europe.

If you have any comment or if you wish to know more about our activities in the field of energy, don't hesitate to contact us.

We wish you a very good reading!

The AER Committee 1 "Economy and Regional development" Secretariat  
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## ENERGY NEWSLETTER May 2007- mid July 2007

### AER NEWS ON ENERGY

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- Date of the next meeting of the AER energy working group
- Draft programme for the AER Conference on Energy Efficiency, 7 December, now available!

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### INTERESTING CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / EVENTS

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- 15<sup>th</sup> European Biomass Conference, Berlin (D), 7-11 May
- Wind industry aims for lion's share of EU renewable target, Milan (I), 7 May
- MEP advocates greater role for cogeneration in "energy showdown", Brussels (B) 9 May
- European Commission to launch EU Network of Energy Security Correspondents 10<sup>th</sup> May, Brussels (B)
- Commissioner Piebalgs opens the first Latvian agency of the Intelligent Energy programme, Riga (LV), 11 May
- Commission pushes for global energy-savings deal, 14-15 May
- EEA CC set out their views on Energy Policy and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms, Gdansk (PL), 15-16 May
- Third International Conference on Clean Coal Technologies for our future, Cagliari (I), 15-17 May
- EU resists Russia's attempt to divide bloc, Samara (RUS) 18 May
- Barroso points to risks of under-investments in Russia, IFRI Conference
- Green Paper on Urban Transport: Towards a European policy for urban transport, Brussels 4 June

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## **PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH PROJECTS ON ENERGY**

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## **AER NEWS ON ENERGY**

### **- Launch of 2 interregional cooperation projects**

At the occasion of the AER Interreg IVC Seminar and Partnership Fair, which was organised on 14 June under the coordination of Committee 1, two concrete project proposals on energy were made. First, a project called Wood4Regions was launched, with the aim of helping Regions to develop their wood sector for heating, and thereby offer alternative sources of incomes to their farmers. The project should provide an answer to the priorities of EU cohesion policy, with regards both to the creation of new jobs – in particular in rural areas – and environmental protection – through exchange of best practices and know-how to reduce dumping of wood waste and improve the burning technics.

A second project was launched, entitled MORE (renamed MORE4NRG), in link with the AER –FEDARENE energy Declaration. This Declaration on renewable energy sources and energy efficiency was launched in Spring 2006 and counts over 70 signatories. Each signatory had set itself key targets in the field of energy. The MORE project aim of setting up a monitoring process, to evaluate the progress made by the Regions signatory of the Declaration towards their energy targets.

More information on these two projects is also available upon request at the AER Committee 1 Secretariat (Agnès Ciccarone, Senior Policy Coordinator, [a.ciccarone@a-e-r.org](mailto:a.ciccarone@a-e-r.org) ) .

### **- Next meeting of the AER working group on energy**

The next meeting of the group will be held on 20 September in Kazan, Tatarstan, following the Committee 1 plenary meeting (19 September). Interested members are invited to register soon: there is no specific registration form for the meeting of the working group, members can use the general registration form for the Committee 1 plenary, available on our website under:

<http://www.a-e-r.org/events/regional-policies-committee/2007/kazan.html>

Please mind the deadline! You need a visa to go to Russia so please register soon!

### **- Draft programme for the AER Conference on energy efficiency now available**

The AER Committee 1 is organising a Conference on energy efficiency on 7 December in Montpellier, Languedoc-Roussillon (F), in the framework of the Exhibition on Renewable energy sources organised by the Region. At the end of the Conference, a new official signing ceremony

will be held, for the Regions having joined the AER-FEDARENE energy Declaration this year. You are all welcome to attend this Conference, for which a draft programme is now available under:

<http://www.a-e-r.org/events/regional-policies-committee/2007/energaia.html>

If your Region is interested in signing the Declaration, please go to:

<http://www.a-e-r.org/main-issues/environment-sustainable-energy.html>

## NEWS ON ENERGY – RECENT EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT AND TRENDS

### - **Council establishes high level group on nuclear safety, Brussels, 8 May**

The European Council adopted conclusions that establish a High Level group on nuclear safety, managing radioactive waste and spent fuel, and on decommissioning nuclear installations. Although nuclear safety remains a national responsibility, the Council stresses that it shall be exercised “where appropriate” in an EU framework. Any new initiatives at ‘EU level should be assessed against their potential contribution to existing mechanisms.

[www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/newsWord/en/ecofin/94016.doc](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/newsWord/en/ecofin/94016.doc)

### - **Greens Study Lambasts Nuclear Near Misses, 14 May**

By adopting Eugenijus Maldeikis's report on the Euratom Treaty, the Greens are accusing the European Parliament of being misled once again on 10 May by an industrial lobby promoting nuclear energy as sustainable. Nuclear energy is, however, a high risk technology and can never be sustainable. That is the conclusion of a new study on nuclear power plant accidents since the Chernobyl accident in 1986, presented by the Greens-EFA Group.

[http://w3-x.net/rmi/rh/download/ar-2962-5828-5071\\_RiskStudyPressClippings.pdf](http://w3-x.net/rmi/rh/download/ar-2962-5828-5071_RiskStudyPressClippings.pdf)

### - **Time to relaunch energy dialogue with Russia, 22 May**

On 27 April Russian Industry and Energy Minister Viktor Khristenko signed an agreement with Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs to restructure EU-Russia energy dialogue working groups. The talks have been fraught with thorny issues, including Russia's blockade of the Lithuanian Mazeikiu refinery. The International Trade Committee has issued an appeal for constructive dialogue on economic relations between the European Union and Russia, an area overshadowed by recent disputes. MEPs believe the future partnership should include a meaningful energy dimension to safeguard Europe's energy supplies from its primary source of oil and gas.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress\\_page/026-6887-141-05-21-903-20070521IPR06882-21-05-2007-2007-false/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/026-6887-141-05-21-903-20070521IPR06882-21-05-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm)

### - **EIB: first financing operation in France in renewable energy sector with an emphasis on wind farms, 30 May**

The European Investment Bank has announced its first renewable energy financing operation in France. The EIB granted a €100 million loan to Crédit Agricole subsidiary Unifergie. The loan should help finance SME ventures in the renewable energy sector, particularly wind farms. The bank talks of the loan meeting three of its six priority areas from its recently revamped policy guidelines on energy. The guidelines, set to be rubber-stamped by EU finance ministers at an 8 June EIB board meeting, strengthen traditionally weak EIB promotion of sustainable development and renewable energy.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=BEI/07/44&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### - **Business wants fewer renewable and cheaper energy**

Ahead of the Energy Council on 6-8 June, BusinessEurope once again criticised the EU's 20% target for renewables by 2020 as “out of reach”. In an open letter to German Economy Minister Michael Glos, BusinessEurope President Erbest-Antoine Seillière attacked the heavy financial “burdens” placed on energy prices in the EU, calling for a “special” framework for energy-intensive

industries. BusinessEurope also wants a level playing field, allowing nuclear energy to compete with other sources of low-carbon energy.

Published in *Europolitics*, Nr 3313 Wednesday 31 May 2007

- **EU Energy Policy and Turkey**

The European Union is developing a common European energy policy which essentially aims at tackling climate change, limiting the EU's dependence on imported hydrocarbons and ensuring the supply of secure and affordable energy for consumers, while contributing to the competitiveness of its economy. The EU and its South-East neighbours have established the Energy Community, as a structured framework for deepened relations in the energy field. The Treaty creating the Energy Community extends the EU energy market to its southern European neighbours within a common regulatory area with shared trade, transmission and environmental rules. In this context Turkey plays an important role being financially and technically supported through various projects of Trans-European Energy Networks.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/07/219&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

- **EIB rubber-stamps new energy policy, Luxembourg, 5 June**

The European Investment Bank (EIB), criticised for financing investments that run contrary to the EU's climate change and clean energy policies, has finally rubber-stamped a new energy policy. The bank's Corporate Operational Plan for 2007-2009 makes "sustainable, competitive and secure energy" a priority objective. On 5 June in Luxembourg, the bank's board of governors and the EU's economy and finance ministers agreed to set aside a total annual amount of €4 billion for projects in five priority areas for EIB lending: 1. renewable energy; 2. energy efficiency; 3. research, development and innovation in energy; 4. security and diversification of internal supply (including Trans-European Energy Networks); and 5. external supply (neighbour and partner countries).

Published in *Europolitics*, Nr 3320 Wednesday 6 June 2007

- **Commissioner Piebalgs welcomes the creation of a 5-country electricity coupling as a positive step towards a single European energy market**

Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs welcomed the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the coupling of the French, German, Belgian, Dutch and Luxembourg electricity markets into a single regional area. The MoU, signed on 6<sup>th</sup> June in the margins of the Energy Council being held in Luxemburg, is the founding stone of the largest integrated regional energy market in Europe. "Regional markets are a positive step towards the creation of single European energy market. It will bring lower prices for consumers, increased security of supply and will attract investment in new generation capacity and transmission infrastructure", said Commissioner Piebalgs.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/770&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

- **EU slammed for going slow on light bulb phase-out**

Greenpeace has accused European manufacturers of going slow in their proposals to phase out energy inefficient lighting. The environmentalists called for all lamps with an efficiency rating below 25 lumens per watt, to be phased out by 2010.

Published in *Europolitics*, Nr 3321 Thursday 7 June 2007

- **Brussels struggles for answers to 2020 energy deadline, 12 June**

Green electricity-making technology - such as biofuel, wind and solar energy or CO2 sequestration - already exists. But the challenge will be getting the political will to roll it out from niches onto mass market scale. Brussels' strategy paper representing a detailed analysis for expert use now, will be available for the EU leaders in March 2008 who will choose which bits of the plan to take forward, using a mix of national government decisions and EU directives. This document is still at an early stage but some conclusions are already emerging: EU states will need to form groups targeting specific renewable sectors with public money; CO2 sequestration at coal plants will probably be enforced by law and futuristic technologies will not be prioritised for now.

[http://euobserver.com/9/24200?rss\\_rk=1](http://euobserver.com/9/24200?rss_rk=1)

- **EU Summit: Energy and climate become community priorities**

Energy and climate protection policies have been added to the list of Community "priorities" following the agreement on negotiations on the new European treaty. The negotiating mandate adopted by EU heads of state and government, met in Brussels from 21 to 23 June, confirms the increase in importance of these issues on the European and international agenda since the elaboration of the draft Constitutional Treaty.

Published in *Europolitics*, Nr 3334 Tuesday 26 June 2007

- **MEPs prepare to vote on renewables report**

After a delay the European Parliament's Energy Committee was set to vote, on 9 July, on a report by Britta Thomsen (PES, Denmark) on "A road map for renewable energy in Europe". Thomsen calls for a sectoral approach to legislation with clear, binding targets for the electricity, transport and heating and cooling sectors. Sectoral targets, too, should be incorporated into the National Action Plans (NAPs).

Published in *Europolitics*, Nr 3336 Thursday 28 June 2007

- **Solar industry upbeat about future growth**

The solar industry is positioning itself as a key contributor to the 20% target for renewables in the EU's energy mix by 2020. But, despite impressive growth, solar's contribution is likely to be limited compared with wind, hydro and biomass.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/solar-industry-upbeat-future-growth/article-164758>

- **Finland, first Member State to submit National Energy Efficiency Action Plan**

Commissioner Piebalgs welcomed today Finland's National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP), transmitted day before yesterday by Mr Taisto Turunen, Director General of the Finnish Ministry of Trade and Industry. Finland is thereby the first Member State to present its national strategy on how to achieve the 9% savings target set by the energy end-use efficiency and energy services directive. "With its Energy Efficiency Action Plan Finland has shown its commitment to the cleanest, cheapest and most secure of energies – the energy that we do not use. I expect the rest of the Member States to submit as well their own plans in due time", said Commissioner Piebalgs.

[http://www.co2-handel.de/article184\\_6023.html](http://www.co2-handel.de/article184_6023.html)

- **Cheaper energy bills across EU in sight**

The EU energy market was thrown to competition over the weekend allowing EU citizens across the 27-member bloc to choose their gas and electricity supplier in a move which should bring prices down for individuals and businesses. The liberalisation of the EU energy market has been pushed by the European Commission in a bid to improve competition in energy markets which should in turn help bring prices down, encourage investment in infrastructure, secure supplies and stimulate the production of renewable fuels.

<http://euobserver.com/9/24405>

## **INTERESTING CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / EVENTS**

- **Sustainable Regions and Municipalities 2007, Växjö (S), 6-10 May**

The implementation of EU policies and directives in the field of energy and transport is often linked with great possibilities and opportunities. Nevertheless, it is also associated with difficulties arising from administrative, legal and practical obstacles. The purpose of this conference was to give local and regional representatives an opportunity to discuss this practical work with other European regions and cities to obtain new ideas and inspiration on how to work towards sustainable regions and municipalities.

<http://www.e5.org/index.php?name=News&file=article&sid=3081>

- **15<sup>th</sup> European Biomass Conference, Berlin (D), 7-11 May**

The 15th European Biomass Conference & Exhibition - From Research to Market Deployment - Biomass for Energy, Industry and Climate Protection took place in Germany in the International Congress Center Berlin (ICC Berlin). There were over 1,300 participants from more than 80 countries wishing to attend and learn about the latest breakthroughs in the field. The Exhibition, taking place in parallel with the Conference, featured the foremost companies and state-of-the-art products in the Biomass industry.

[http://www.biotop.de/termine/termin\\_detail\\_e.asp?ID=1612&KategorieID=1](http://www.biotop.de/termine/termin_detail_e.asp?ID=1612&KategorieID=1)

- **Wind industry aims for lion's share of EU renewable target, Milan (I), 7 May**

The wind-energy sector claims that it can contribute up to 16% of Europe's electricity generation by 2020, up from around 3% at present, participants heard at the opening of a major wind-energy conference in Milan.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/wind-industry-aims-lion-share-eu-renewables-target/article-163617>

- **MEP advocates greater role for cogeneration in "energy showdown", Brussels (B) 9 May**

Speaking at a 9 May stakeholder conference on cogeneration, Green MEP Claude Turmes called on the EU to make co-generation a cornerstone of its future energy policy and efforts to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions.

[http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/mep-advocates-greater-role-cogeneration-energy-showdown/article-163688?\\_print](http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/mep-advocates-greater-role-cogeneration-energy-showdown/article-163688?_print)

- **European Commission to launch EU Network of Energy Security Correspondents 10<sup>th</sup> May, Brussels (B)**

On 10th May, the Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, Benita Ferrero-Waldner hosted the first meeting of the Network of Energy Security Correspondents (NESCO) in Brussels. The Commissioner for Energy, Andris Piebalgs also participated in this event. This new network was endorsed by the European Council in December 2006, as a new instrument to step up the Union's capacity to collect information and provide early warning of potential threats to the security of energy supply. The network, which consists of representatives of the European Commission, Council Secretariat and EU Member States, will also be a forum which can provide shared assessments of external factors impacting on Europe's energy supply.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/629&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

- **Commissioner Piebalgs opens the first Latvian agency of the Intelligent Energy programme, Riga (LV), 11 May**

Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs inaugurated the first energy agency in Latvia, which was supported by the European Commission Intelligent Energy Europe programme. The programme supports the establishment of new regional or local energy agencies in order to help public authorities, and their communities, improve their energy efficiency and make the most of locally based renewable energy resources.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/664&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

- **Commission pushes for global energy-savings deal, 14-15 May**

OECD countries and key developing nations should agree on a common approach to energy efficiency, Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs told a ministerial meeting of the International Energy Agency.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/commission-pushes-global-energy-savings-deal/article-163830>

- **EEA CC set out their views on Energy Policy and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms, Gdansk (PL), 15-16 May**

Members of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and members of the EFTA Consultative Committee (EFTA CC) met in Gdansk, Poland, on 15-16 May 2007 for the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the European Economic Area Consultative Committee (EEA CC). The EEA CC adopted unanimously 2 resolutions: on "an Energy Policy for Europe" and on "the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms".

[www.eesc.europa.eu/activities/press/cp/docs/2007/communique-presse-eesc-038-2007-en.doc](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/activities/press/cp/docs/2007/communique-presse-eesc-038-2007-en.doc)

- **Third International Conference on Clean Coal Technologies for our future, Cagliari (I), 15-17 May**

The Third International Conference on Clean Coal Technologies for our Future was held in Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy on 15-17 May 2007. More than 200 people attended from more than 32 countries.

The Second International Conference on Clean Coal Technologies for our Future was held in Sardinia in May 2005. This successful conference attracted over 80 papers and almost 250 policy and technical participants representing 30 countries. Many of the subjects and proposals of the first two conferences have been successfully implemented. Technology development in CCTs has been continuing apace and many countries are formally engaged in international collaboration in this field. Now is the time to bring together all this experience in CCTs again.

**Programme:** [http://www.cct2007.it/inc/CCT2007\\_Final\\_Programme.pdf](http://www.cct2007.it/inc/CCT2007_Final_Programme.pdf)

**Information:** <http://www.cct2007.it/>

- **EU resists Russia's attempt to divide bloc, Samara (RUS), 18 May**

At the EU-Russia summit in Samara on 18 May, EU leaders signaled that formal cooperation between the two sides cannot be strengthened until bilateral disputes between Russia and several of the EU's new member states are resolved. Poland, with the support of Lithuania, has been particularly vocal in its opposition to greater EU cooperation with Russia and has vetoed opening broad EU-Russia co-operation talks. Poland fears that if such talks proceed in the current climate, its interests will be sidelined by the interests of larger EU member states, particularly with respect to energy security.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/eu-resists-russia-attempt-divide-bloc/article-163763>

- **Barroso points to risks of under-investments in Russia, IFRI Conference**

Speaking at an energy policy debate organized by French international relations institute IFRI, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso admitted to being less scared by Russian misuse of energy as a political weapon than infrastructure under-investment leading to the country being unable to meet contractual obligation. The IFRI conference, held ahead of the next G8 summit on June 7 in Heiligendamm, Germany, saw Barroso depart radically from his prepared speech.

[Published in Europolitics in June](#)

- **Green Paper on Urban Transport: Towards a European policy for urban transport, Brussels, 4 June**

Green Paper on Urban Transport: citizens and stakeholders have high expectations for European urban transport policy. The consultations to prepare a new Green Paper on Urban Transport ended on 4th June with a major stakeholder conference in Brussels, "Towards a European policy for urban transport". The event gathered around 350 participants from all sectors with an interest in urban transport. High level representatives from cities and from the European Institutions presented their expectations of the Green Paper, commented on results of the consultations, and addressed the added value of actions at European level.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/756&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

- **Turkey and the EU: Together for a European Energy Policy – High-level conference in Istanbul on 5 June**

Underlying the strategic importance of EU-Turkish co-operation in energy, Commissioner for Enlargement Olli Rehn and Commissioner for Energy Andris Piebalgs addressed a high-level Energy Conference on Tuesday, 5 June in Istanbul, organised jointly by the Commission and the Turkish authorities. According to Mr. Rehn this conference was a great opportunity to discuss energy strategy, which is an area where both the EU and Turkey can gain from deeper cooperation. The Conference "Turkey and the EU: Together for a European Energy Policy" brought together key political and economic actors to discuss the common challenges and opportunities which both the EU and Turkey face in seeking to ensure their future energy security.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/748&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

- **Ministers to revisit the issue of unbundling, Luxembourg, 6 June**

The Council on 6 June grappled once again with issues relating to the EU's internal gas and electricity market at its meeting in Luxembourg. Discussion, revolved around a questionnaire drawn up by the German EU Presidency. Germany has centred discussion around four main problems to be tackled by the European Commission in its third legislative package for liberalisation. Ministers have then examined the issues of 1. unbundling; 2. effective regulation; 3. adequate infrastructure investment; and 4. cooperation among network operators.

*Published in Europolitics, Nr 3320 Wednesday 6 June 2007*

- **EP seminar ponders prospects of gas and electricity market, 5-11 June**

With his report on the prospects for the internal gas and electricity market scheduled for committee vote on 18 June, and in plenary meeting on 10 July, Alejo Vidal-Quadras (EPP-ER, Spain), together with Anne Laperrouze (ALDE, France) brought together a motley crew of energy experts. Their seminar saw industry experts from the USA draw lessons for Europe from their own experience of liberalisation.

*Published in Europolitics*

- **Commissioner Piebalgs supports a common energy agenda for the Baltic States, Brussels, 12 June**

Commissioner Piebalgs attended the Baltic Regional Energy Forum which addresses the issues of strategic development of the energy sector in the Baltic States. The Forum aims to engage high level participants into discussions on the optimum energy mix and supply aspects, clean and sustainable energy, energy efficiency and new technologies. "Enhanced cooperation and coordination between the Baltic states in all these areas can bring significant contribution for strengthening the energy security in the Baltic region. I see this event as an important step in forging a common energy agenda for the Baltics," said the Commissioner.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/805&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

- **Fuels of the Future in North Rhine-Westphalia – Germany's Energy Research State, Brussels, 13 June**

The conference was intended to highlight prospects for energy supply in the transport sector. Top priorities included the development of innovative vehicle fuels and the optimization of engines with the aim of reducing consumption and emissions. Young researchers and professors from renowned institutions in North Rhine-Westphalia presented their research and representatives of NRW's energy industry contributed their views.

[http://www.frp.nrw.de/frp/de/nrw/vaeu/dld/vall\\_20070613\\_EN.pdf](http://www.frp.nrw.de/frp/de/nrw/vaeu/dld/vall_20070613_EN.pdf)

- **Experts disagree on EU energy market liberalisation, Brussels, 26 June**

On 26 June, panellists from a range of sectors debated the role of regulation, fiscal incentives, consumers and other issues related to the transformation of the EU's energy market in light of climate-change and energy-security concerns. The event was part of an annual Energy Europe conference organised by the Brussels think-tank Friends of Europe. Among various issues the

following questions were discussed: energy taxation, liberalisation, grid security, policies and targets, and the role of the consumer.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/climate-change/experts-disagree-eu-energy-market-liberalisation/article-164989?Ref=RSS>

**- Energy in Regional Development – Learning from European Best Practice, Cornwall (UK), 29 June**

This conference provided evidence from some of the most inspiring European regions that have implemented highly successful sustainable energy programmes to support the local economy. Speakers presented iconic energy projects from regions including Navarra (S), Samsø (DK), Güssing (A), Apeldoorn (NL) and Gothenburg (S). Delegates learnt about these exemplary projects and debated how this best practice can help with their own ambitions of achieving low-carbon competitive regional economies.

<http://www.csep.co.uk/page146g.html>

**- European Commission gathers key international players to discuss sustainable development of biofuels, Brussels. 5-6 July**

On 5 and 6 July, the European Commission brought together some of the most influential figures in the biofuel sector to debate the benefits and challenges of bio-fuels production and use. The two-day conference addressed five key issues: policies to support biofuels; development of international trade in biofuels, environmental risks and benefits of production and use, biofuels and developing countries and research activities in biofuels

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1000&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

## **PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH PROJECTS ON ENERGY**

**- Driving the Sustainable Fuel Market: European Commission launches Biofuels Public Consultation, 30 April**

The European Commission has launched a public consultation on "biofuel issues in the new legislation on the promotion of renewable energy", addressing issues such as how to achieve a 10% biofuel share and how to ensure environmental sustainability. The consultation follows upon the recently adopted Energy Policy for Europe. This included a proposal for a binding 20% target for the overall share of renewable energy by 2020 and a binding 10% target for the share of biofuels in transport. The consultation is aimed at helping the Commission draft proposals on incorporating these targets into legislation.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/591&format=PDF&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**- IPCC support for biofuels angers environmentalists**

The fourth assessment report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has angered environmentalists despite a clearer call for drastic cuts in carbon emissions. A group of environmentalist organisations, including the Global Forest Coalition, Biofuelwatch, Friends of the Earth, Corporate Europe Observatory and the Gaia Foundation dubbed the IPCC's call for more biofuels as a "climate disaster in the making".

Published in [Europolitics](#) on 4 May 2007

**- Large majority adopts Maldeikis's Euratom Report, 10 May**

The European Parliament has adopted with a large majority Eugenijus Maldeikis's report on the Euratom Treaty. Mr. Maldeikis stressed how, thanks to the 1957 Euratom Treaty, the EU has become the world leader in nuclear industry and research. He also praised the EU nuclear industry's contribution to greater security of supply.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/parliament-wants-power-nuclear-policy/article-163719>

- **“Dirtiest power plants” in Germany and UK**

WWF has released its 2007 'Dirty Thirty' report, which ranks Europe's 30 worst power stations in terms of climate-polluting emissions. Combined, they account for 10% of all CO2 emissions in the EU. Germany and the UK each have ten plants on the list, all of which are coal-fired.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/climate-change/dirtiest-power-plants-germany-uk/article-163709>

- **Foratom welcomes UK nuclear confirmation**

The European nuclear industry trade association FORATOM welcomed the UK government's latest Energy White Paper that called for “serious consideration” of nuclear power. In the consultation document accompanying the Energy White Paper, UK Secretary of State for Trade and Industry noted that the government will take a decision this year on new nuclear power stations.

Published in *Europolitics*, Nr 3312 Thursday 24 May 2007

- **IEA report on German energy policies shows lack of comprehensiveness, early June**

The International Energy Agency has published a report which criticises the German energy policies and recommends to change from the successful renewable energy law, the current feed-in tariff, to a quota-based certificate scheme. WWEA and BWE reject this proposal which would endanger the success of the wind industry in Germany and beyond.

<http://www.wind-energie.de/en/news/article/iea-report-on-german-energy-policies-shows-lack-of-comprehensiveness/166/>

- **Status report on Electricity Consumption and Efficiency Trends in the Enlarged European Union.**

The European Commission Directorate-General Joint Research Institute for Environment and Sustainability has recently published its Status report on Electricity Consumption and Efficiency Trends in the Enlarged European Union. This report summarises the result of a 2006 in-depth survey on the electricity consumption in buildings in the enlarged EU and Candidate Countries, together with the present market share of efficient appliances and equipment. One of the aims of this report is to show the present status of electricity consumption for the main appliances and equipments, and on the base of the best available data estimate the saving potential for electricity in buildings in EU Member States and Candidate Countries.

<http://www.managenergy.net/products/R1739.htm>

- **Natural gas market review 2007**

The International Energy Agency in Paris has recently released a research piece titled “Natural Gas Market Review 2007: Security in a Globalizing Market to 2015”. This year's review warns even more insistently about insufficient investment. Cost increases and delays, too, are hindering investment. The 2007 review points to the need for short-term emergency policies for gas. The IEA book also details the growing links between gas and electricity markets and a resulting steady increase in gas demand.

[www.iea.org/books](http://www.iea.org/books)