

AER ENERGY NEWSLETTER

Read the latest AER and European developments in the field of sustainable energy policies!

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AER NEWS

« Energaia » International Fair, Montpellier, 6 – 8 December 2007

The AER has made a significant contribution to this event, with high-ranking speakers from European Institutions and regional agencies. The exhibition attracted almost 19 000 visitors, from 63 different countries. Over 700 professionals attended the various conferences and roundtables on energy efficiency, clean waste incineration technologies and the improvement of the insulation in public buildings. <http://www.a-e-r.org/events/regional-policies-committee/2007/energaia.html>

MORE 4NRG Interreg IVC Project

The purpose of the project is to measure the impact of Regions' commitment on energy consumption and subsequently their seriousness and accountancy. The project, led by Flevoland (NL) with a strong support of the AER Secretariat, will consist of various mentoring activities between more and less advanced regions. The aim is to strengthen know-how exchange between Peers and Hosts and to improve the energy strategy of regions lacking appropriate experience. For more information, please contact Agnès Ciccarone, Senior Policy Coordinator: a.ciccarone@aer.eu

Conference on climate change and renewable energy: "Medium and Small Communities facing the Challenge", Rovigo, 2 – 4 April 2008

The AER is a partner in the organisation of this event, jointly with the ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability). The conference will bring together advanced cities and towns that will share with municipalities their capacity and experiences about energy efficiency, renewable energy, district heating and co-generation and other burning issues related to climate protection. <http://www.iclei-europe.org/index.php?id=5449>

AER Seminar on Biomass Energy

This seminar will take place in Piteå, Norrbotten-S on 8-9 June 2008. The 1st day will be dedicated to field visits and the second day to a Conference on biomass, with a focus on wood. A draft programme and all necessary information will be soon available on the AER website. (www.aer.eu) For more details, please contact Agnès Ciccarone, Policy coordinator, a.ciccarone@aer.eu, +33 (0)3 88 22 74 37

RECENT EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENTS

European Commission wants to help small and medium-sized companies to become greener

The European Commission wishes to support SMEs who efficiently use energy and implement EU environmental legislation. A special programme will be set up in order to channel financial resources towards support networks, to simplify access to environmental management systems and to promote greater awareness of environmental issues among companies.

<http://www.a2mediagroup.com/?c=157&a=18924>

France and Britain suggest a tax cut on green products

France and the UK sent a joint letter to the EC suggesting a VAT cut on energy-efficient products, in order to create an incentive for consumers. Yet, reducing VAT is a politically delicate subject, as EU member states have different positions on the required tax level for different types of products. Under current EU rules, member states can decide on the level of these taxes, but they cannot go below 15% for goods and services. Exceptions for certain products – such as children's clothing – have been granted in the past.

<http://euroobserver.com/9/25060/?rk=1>

EU Industry warns about carbon trading and RES

On 27/11, the most important industry group in Brussels, BusinessEurope warned that the EU should focus more on energy efficiency improvements in buildings and industrial processes, rather than renewable energies and emissions trading. According to the BusinessEurope's President Ernest-Antoine Seillère, a revised and strengthened EU Emissions Trading Scheme will cost some companies too much and may force them to move outside the EU to countries where CO2 emissions are cheaper.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/eu-industry-warns-carbon-trading-renewables/article-168690>

The Committee of the Regions calls upon the Commission to give regions a more important role in the challenge to reduce global climate change

The CoR unveiled on 11 October an opinion calling for the provision of further resources and measures to assist regional authorities in implementing climate change policies. The opinion stresses the importance of regional flexibility in reaching energy targets and in reducing the overall cost of EU climate policy.

http://www.cor.europa.eu/en/press/press_07_10116.html

Commission authorises Spanish State aid for coal innovation and environmental protection

The European Commission allowed on 28 November the Spanish State to grant a 3 million Euros aid to the region of Castilla y Leon for Research, Development and Innovation purposes as well as for environmental protection related to the coal mining sector.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1789&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Commission under fire for new hydrogen proposals

The European Commission presented on 10 October two proposals to quicken the development and marketing of clean and safe hydrogen vehicles. The first one is to simplify and uniform the rules for approving hydrogen vehicles. The second one fosters the creation of a public-private partnership for research on hydrogen and fuel cells. Green MEPs criticised these initiatives for being the wrong answer to the problem of dangerous vehicle emissions.

<http://www.planetaazul.com.mx/www/2007/10/12/commission-under-fire-for-new-hydrogen-proposals/>

European Parliament's call for strengthening the EU's foreign-energy policy

A strong majority of MEPs adopted on 26/09 a report drafted by Polish Christian Democrat Jacek Saryusz-Wolski that recommended bolstering the EU's foreign-energy policy, in order to ensure energy safety and protect strategic European energy assets. The EP calls for "a precise road map" that would outline the creation of a common policy on energy covering security of energy supply and transit.

<http://www.euractiv.com/fr/energie/parlement-souhaite-politique-etrangere-energie-musclee/article-167150>

José Manuel Barroso: "Our energy future in an interdependent world", World Energy Congress, Rome, 12 November 2007

The president of the European Commission announced a revised emission-trading scheme as well as concrete measures to promote RES and outline how each Member State should achieve the greenhouse gas reduction targets. There will also be measures to increase the share of biofuels in the overall EU transport fuel consumption to a minimum of 10%, in a sustainable way. The transcription of the speech is available under:

<http://www.europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/07/703&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=enRapid>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ViennEnergy, Vienna, 28-29 January 2008

Viennenergy 2008 is a forum for innovative urban energy planning. Besides the classical "ex-cathedra" presentations, there will be active discussion workshops and, for the partner cities, a world café type round table will allow the participants to exchange and interlink their know-how and experience.

For more information:

<http://www.viennenergy.com/englisch/index.htm>

2nd EU Sustainable Energy Week, Brussels, 28 January – 1 February 2008

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy and Transport, associated to the other European Institutions will organise the second EU Sustainable Energy Week, under the umbrella of the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign. The event will deal with major energy issues and the fight against climate change. Find out more about the Campaign at: www.sustenergy.org

Central European Biomass Conference, Gratz, 16 – 19 January 2008

The conference aims at providing an up-to-date overview of the latest political, economic and technological developments in the field of bioenergy (heat, electricity and transportation fuels). A special focus lies thereby on the biomass raw material supply out from forestry and agriculture – a topic that poses a big challenge as well as a big chance for the Central Europe.

<http://www.biomasseverband.at/biomasse/biomasse?cid=27268>

Bioenergy World Europe, Verona, 7 – 10 February 2008

This 4-day exhibition will be dedicated to different forms of bioenergy - liquid, solid and gaseous. The event will be held in conjunction with Fieragricola, a major international agriculture exhibition.

<http://www.bioenergy-world.com/>

6th Business Europe Summit: "Greening the economy. New energy for Business", 21 – 22 February 2008

The conference will focus on how Europe can turn the "carbon challenge" into a business opportunity, giving new energy to growth and jobs. Leading business and political figures, NGOs, media and academics from various countries will exchange (business-) climate visions and present (eco-) innovative solutions. To find more about the conference, please follow the link:

<http://www.ebsummit.org/index.html?page=11&lang=en&>

Energy in Central and Eastern Europe, Prague, 26 – 27 February 2008

Now in its 5th year, this conference is renowned for bringing together key speakers and industry professionals to explore and debate the future challenges faced in a liberalised energy market.

<http://www.marketforce.eu.com/energycee/>

EWEC 2008 – European Wind Energy Conference & Exhibition, Brussels, 31 March - 3 April 2008

The 2008 wind energy conference will attract over 4,000 professional visitors and political delegations from 70 countries. Visitors represent all relevant parts of the decision making chain - engineers, purchasers, analysts, political representatives... This event covers all aspects of the wind market, giving unparalleled access to business contacts and unique networking opportunities. <http://www.ewec2008.info/>

PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH PROJECTS ON ENERGY

Local Energy Action –Good Practice 2007

This publication presents 12 new ManagEnergy Case Studies, which cover three main topics such as: energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy education. The brochure is currently being printed and will be distributed at forthcoming ManagEnergy events. You can also download it in a PDF format under:

<http://www.managenergy.net/news/news0711.html>

World Energy Outlook 2007

The annual World Energy Outlook is the leading source for medium to long-term energy market projections and analysis and has achieved widespread international recognition. The 2007 edition focuses on the necessary co-operation with China and India in order to address global energy challenges.

<http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/>

“The link between energy and human activity”, OECD, 15 September 2007

Energy use patterns and trends are shaped by the decisions of hundreds of millions of individuals, households, and organisations. Understanding this complex fabric of energy use, and the consequent carbon dioxide emissions, is vital to developing effective policies in support of energy safety, economic prosperity, and environmental protection. Written for specialists, experts and academics, the study has received warm welcome from reviewers and is considered as a major contribution to better understanding how energy use is evolving.

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/oeed/1608019x/1997/00001997/00000001/6197331e;jsessionid=dymwm9yhuz9h.alice?format=print>

“Time...to use the Structural Funds for sustainable energy projects”, October 2007

The special issue of “Time magazine” outlines the results of three European initiatives: BISE (Better Intergration for Sustainable Energy), RUSE (Redirecting Urban areas development towards Sustainable Energy) and MODEL. Their common goal was to encourage the creation of networks of towns and cities for the promotion of energy efficiency in the new EU Member States, Candidate Countries, Western Balkan Countries and Ukraine. It shows how EU, national and local stakeholders can actively act on energy efficiency and how Structural Funds can be invested in energy projects.

http://www.energie-cites.eu/IMG/pdf/time_journal.pdf

« Energie 2007 – 2050: les choix et les pièges »

This 48-page publication issued by the French Academy of Sciences summarizes the new findings and achievements in the studies on climate change and renewable energies use. It also highlights a number of energy demand and supply scenarios developed by some renowned international organisations and agencies. The document is available only in French.

http://www.academie-sciences.fr/publications/rapports/pdf/rapport_energie_07_07.pdf

This newsletter is proposed by the AER Committee 1 “Economy and Regional development” Secretariat. For any comment, suggestion or question, please contact: Estelle Delangle, e.delangle@aer.eu Tel: +33 (0)3 88 22 74 38