



# European Geothermal Energy Council

EGEC PRESS RELEASE

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## EGEC welcomes FP7 agreement - however, renewable energies and energy efficiency still far behind nuclear in funding

On 15 December 2006, the European Council reached agreement on a text negotiated by the Parliament and Commission granting at least € 1.175 billion of the budget for non-nuclear energy research for renewable energies and energy end-use efficiency over the next seven years, within the 7<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme (FP7). The Parliament already had approved the final text on 30 November 2006 after backing down from its original position, which sought more than € 2.4 billion for renewables.

FP7 is the EU's main instrument for funding European research and has an overall budget of € 54 billion. Following the Council's decision to support the compromise, the programme will begin as planned in January 2007 and will run until 2013.

Geothermal energy is part of the possible topics for R&D on renewable energy sources, both for electric power and in the heating and cooling sector. With geothermal energy, also the otherwise difficult base-load part of the renewable energy supply can successfully be met.

EGEC welcomes the increased funding for renewable energies in FP7, and highlights the fact that renewables and energy efficiency account for about half of the funds available for non-nuclear energy research. However, in the light of the increasing importance of renewable energies for fighting against climate change, the support is far from what is required, and far from what might be possible. A comparison with the funds available for nuclear energy R&D, which is outside FP7, and dealt with in the EURATOM treaty, shows that clearly: On an annual basis, RES+EE will receive just 31 % of the sum available for nuclear energy research (see graph).

