



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**EREC – European Renewable Energy Council**

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### **Press Release – 12 July 2007**

**Lisbon, Portugal – ‘Reaching 20% of renewable energy by 2020 is feasible only if a fast and adequate policy framework is adopted’, delegates heard at the opening of the European seminar on renewable energy sources organised by the Portuguese Presidency in Lisbon on 11 and 12 July.**

Arthouros Zervos, President of the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC), was invited by the Portuguese Presidency to express the renewable industry’s opinion on the Renewable Energy Roadmap. Professor Zervos made his point clear: ‘In our view, it is possible to generate 35 % of Europe’s electricity supply by renewable energy sources, 25 % of the total heat production and at least 10 % biofuels but to make these targets come true, timing is a key element. In only thirteen years from now we want to have achieved an increase of thirteen percentage points in renewables. This means the EU needs to adopt the necessary measures as soon as possible. A delay in legislation can cause tremendous delays in action.’

For the European renewables industry, a key objective for the future legislation framework is to maintain investor confidence. This can only be guaranteed if a clear pathway is shown for the different sectors in renewables. Renewable heating and renewable electricity for example are two completely different sectors with different needs and actors. This needs to be pointed out clearly in the national action plans.

‘When it comes to the provisions and principle measures for the different sub-sectors, it is crucial to maintain the already existing frameworks for electricity and biofuels as minimum standards and add necessary measures on heating & cooling. Current legislation should be strengthened in order to further remove administrative barriers at the European level’, Zervos added.

The sensitive question ‘how to distribute the 20% overall target into national targets’ was another core element of the 2-day debate. ‘Increasing the share of renewables in the EU from today’s around 7% to 20% in 2020 means an increase of 13 percentage points in 13 years for the EU. One simple option would be for each Member State to increase its share of renewables by 13 percentage points. ‘Such an approach would make the process transparent and would avoid long negotiations. The commitment was taken in solidarity and so should the actions. There is absolutely no scientific evidence in any country which could justify that a single Member State is not able to deliver a 13 percent point increase’, commented Zervos.

## **Note to editors:**

- To read the entire statement of Prof. Arthouros Zervos, President of EREC, please click here.

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EREC, the European Renewable Energy Council, is the umbrella organisation of the major European renewable energy industry, trade and research associations active in the field of photovoltaics, small hydropower, solar thermal, biomass, geothermal and wind energy. It represents an industry with an annual turnover of more than 20 billion and more than 300.000 employees.

EREC's member associations are the [European Biomass Association \(AEBIOM\)](#), [European Geothermal Energy Council \(EGEC\)](#), [European Photovoltaic Industry Association \(EPIA\)](#), [European Small Hydropower Association \(ESHA\)](#), [European Solar Thermal Industry Federation \(ESTIF\)](#), [European Biomass Industry Association \(EUBIA\)](#), [European Renewable Energy Centres Agency \(EUREC\)](#) and [European Wind Energy Association \(EWEA\)](#)

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