

The Renewable Energy Directive – An Outstanding Opportunity for the Development of Solar Thermal in Europe

Munich, 25 May 2009. An Agreement was reached in December 2008 between the European Parliament and the 27 EU Member States on a new directive to boost EU renewable energy use to 20% by 2020. For the first time, heating and cooling – responsible for nearly 50% of Europe’s energy demand – is covered by a European piece of legislation promoting renewable energies. The estec2009 conference will shed light on how this new Directive will change the framework conditions for solar thermal in the Member States.

Under the new Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from Renewable Energy Sources (RES), Member States must stipulate the use of minimum levels of energy from renewable sources “in new buildings and in existing buildings that are subject to major renovation”. The directive is a major step forward for the future of solar thermal energy in Europe.

The agreed Directive includes, for each member state, a legally binding renewables target for 2020 along with a clear trajectory to follow. By June 2010 Member States are required to draw up national Renewable Energy Action Plans, which shall define national sub-targets for the sectors electricity, transport and heating and cooling, and detail the measures that will be taken to achieve them.

“Major policy changes have occurred at the European level since the last estec conference in 2007”, says ESTIF Secretary General Uwe Trenkner. “The 4th European Solar Thermal Energy Conference (estec2009) is the place to catch up with the latest policy framework for our industry”. Selected conference sessions will help to assess the opportunities and challenges implied by the RES directive. estec2009, which takes place on 25-26 May 2009 in Munich, also aims to provide national solar thermal associations and companies with support for the implementation of this piece of legislation in their home country.

Press contacts

During estec2009 and Intersolar (25-29 May 2009), please use the following phone numbers:

Uwe Trenkner
Secretary General
Mobile: +32 499 265 865

Célia Galeotti
Marketing & Events Manager
Mobile: +32 473 777 871



European Solar Thermal Industry Federation
Renewable Energy House
Rue d’Arlon 63-67
B-1040 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 546 19 38 - Fax: +32 2 546 19 89
Email: info@estif.org - Website: www.estif.org