

Dear Member of Parliament,
Dear EUFORES Member,



It is my pleasure to inform you about the EUFORES activities in the past 6 months. There were several successful events organized and a number of exciting conferences are planned for the rest of the year. In addition to our events, I would like to present the new legislative initiatives that have recently been forged in Brussels.

EUFORES feels very much honored that two Commissioners accepted our invitation to attend the EUFORES breakfast roundtables with Members of the European Parliament. Dacian Ciolos, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, and Andris Piebalgs, Commissioner for Development, met EUFORES core Members of the European Parliament during the plenary session in Strasbourg. This exchange between members of the European Parliament and the European Commission will definitely flourish in subsequent legislative proposals of the European Commission.

Before the summer break in the European and national parliaments starts, the European institutions have put forward several crucial pieces of legislation. An agreement has been reached on the new *Energy Efficiency Directive* which will push the energy market to rethink the current energy sales model. The directive introduces the first signs of the market transformation. The Communication on renewable energy policies titled *Renewable energy: a major player in the European energy market* calls for integration of renewable energy into the European energy market and points out the importance to identify 2030 milestones as soon as possible. This list is not exhaustive but extremely important for the EU Member States as they will be the ones implementing the legislative acts.

The pieces of legislation mentioned above will definitely be part of our upcoming annual conference Inter-Parliamentary Meeting which will take place in the autumn of 2012. We are very much looking forward to this high-level conference as well as to our future activities at which we hope you will be able to participate.

Brussels, 9 July 2012

Jan Geiss
Secretary General EUFORES

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EUFORES Upcoming events

- **EUFORES General Assembly**

When: Tuesday, 4 September 2012, 19:00-21:00h,

Where: European Parliament, Brussels

- **Breakfast Roundtable with Commissioner Potocnik**

When: Wednesday, 12th September 2012

Where: European Parliament, Strasbourg

Background information: Janez Potocnik, European Commissioner for the Environment, will attend the EUFORES breakfast roundtable in order to meet and debate with core Members of the European Parliament. The main point on the agenda will be the current and upcoming issues within the environment policy of the European Commission and the implications for renewable energy and energy efficiency policies.

- **Breakfast Roundtable: EEW2 Irish Presidency Briefing**

When: October 2012

Where: European Parliament, Brussels

Background information: This Breakfast roundtable, a part of the Energy Efficiency Watch 2 project, gathers MEPs, experts and representatives of the upcoming Irish presidency in the Council with the aim to discuss priorities of the Irish presidency concerning energy efficiency. In addition to this, the results of the EU-wide survey on implementation of energy efficiency policies in the Member States will be presented.

- **EUFORES Inter-Parliamentary Meeting (IPM12)**

When: November 2012

Where: Lisbon, Portugal

Background information: The annual Inter-Parliamentary Meeting is a high-level conference for Members of Parliaments from all over Europe with selected experts from the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency. The conference is the key platform for related discussions among key decision makers within the EU.

- **Breakfast Roundtable: Irish Troika Briefing**

When: November 2012

Where: European Parliament, Brussels

Background information: This breakfast roundtable, a part of our new project Keep on Track!, is an intense briefing with the upcoming EU country holding the presidency in the Council or with the TROIKA presidency on upcoming issues on the Council agenda with regard to renewable energy policies. More specifically, the further implementation of the RES Directive and the fulfilment of the interim goals will be the focal point of the briefing.

EUFORES News

New EUFORES project *Keep-on-Track!* starts in July 2012

In July, EUFORES - together with EREC and a consortium of 17 partners from all over EU – launched a new project called *Keep-on-Track!* In fact, this project is a follow-up project of

REPAP 2020 and aims at developing mechanisms to help Member States to “keep on track” for reaching its 2020 objectives outlined in the RES Directive. It will provide up-to-date market data and policy recommendations along-side the trajectory outlined in the RES Directive and a close-to-market monitoring of the fulfillment of the RES trajectory for each of the 27 EU Member States. It will also provide a platform for discussion and dialogue among different market actors such as European and national renewable energy industry associations, the energy efficiency sector, national and EU Parliamentarians as well as the scientific community. The project aims at providing early warnings and policy recommendations in case a Member State is lagging behind its trajectory and does not manage to overcome identified barriers for RES deployment. In this case, *Keep-on-track!* will suggest solutions how to compensate any possible delay encountered.

Market feedback on energy efficiency policies available soon

In the coming months, EUFORES will disseminate the **results of a Europe-wide survey on the implementation of national energy efficiency policies** in the EU Member States. The survey looks into the implementation of the policies as they were set in the National Energy Efficiency Action Plans in 2007 and 2011. The survey has been executed by Upper-Austrian Energy Agency, Energy Cities, FEDARENE and eceee. The members of those networks and many other experts have provided valuable feedback on the implementation of energy efficiency policies in their home countries. The results will be available in September 2012. The survey is part of the [Energy Efficiency Watch](#) project of which EUFORES is the coordinator.

Past events

Cypriot Presidency Briefings

Before Cyprus took over the presidency in the Council of the EU on 1 July 2012, EUFORES had organized two meetings with Cypriot Energy Attaché Christos Gogakis. The first meeting focused on priorities of the upcoming Cypriot presidency in energy efficiency and the second one in renewable energy sources. Several Members of the European Parliament attended the meetings and engaged in the discussion with Cypriot Energy Attaché Gogakis. While explaining the specific climatic conditions in Cyprus, Gogakis presented energy efficiency, infrastructure, offshore grid, trainings for building architects and workers as the priorities of Cyprus.

Commissioners Ciolos and Piebalgs at EUFORES MEP breakfast

Dacian Ciolos, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Developments and Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development attended the EUFORES MEP Breakfast Roundtable respectively in April and May 2012. The regular MEP Breakfast Roundtable takes place during the plenary week in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Each roundtable was attended by around 20 MEPs who discuss the impact of Commissioners’ portfolios on renewable energy and energy efficiency. This event format is the most successful political format of EUFORES which pushes European policies forward.

Josche Muth, Secretary General European Renewable Energy Council (EREC) at EUFORES MEP breakfast.

Early in July, Josche Muth, Secretary General EREC, has joined the EUFORES MEP group in the European Parliament for a breakfast discussion. He presented a thorough analysis and the position of the European renewables industry on the recently published Communication on Renewables by the European Commission.

EUFORES conference: “Members of national Parliaments: Key drivers for renewable energy and energy efficiency”

A 3-hours panel discussion of parliamentarians from the European Parliament and national parliaments with representatives of the European Commission focused on the implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency policies in the EU. EUFORES organized this conference on 19th June 2012 in the European Commission during the EU Sustainable Energy Week. **Claude Turmes** (MEP) and **Fiona Hall** (MEP) debated with **António Leitaó Amaro** (MP Portugal), **Willem-Frederik Schiltz** (MP Belgium), **Cáit Keane** (Senator Ireland), **Marie Donnelly** and **Paula Rey Garcia** from the European Commission.

"Building successful energy policies in the EU is a two-step approach. First, EU institutions have to come up with forward-looking policies. Second, Member States have to implement them on the national level," **Fiona Hall** pointed out. "That is the reason why we need to intensify cooperation with national parliaments so that they can obtain more ownership of EU legislation. This would definitely lead to a more effective implementation of policies that are forged in Brussels," she continued.

Policy Overview

Shortly before the summer break of the European Parliament, the EU institutions made a deal on the Energy Efficiency Directive and the European Commission put forward a Communication on renewable energy policies beyond 2020.

The **Energy Efficiency Directive** has reached its final stage. The European Parliament, Commission and Council concluded a deal on the directive on 13th June 2012. The new directive will give a strong push to the European economic development, however it falls short of reaching the 20 % energy savings target. The EU governments - in the form of the European Council - were not willing to agree to measures that would lead Europe into achieving savings of 20% in its energy consumption. Several binding measures have been accepted with a lowered ambition. The two most important changes concern the renovation of public buildings. In total, 3% of all public buildings owned by the central government will have to be renovated compared to originally planned 3 % of all public buildings. Also, the initial proposal of the Commission requiring energy companies to make an annual reduction of their energy sales to industrial and household consumers of 1.5 % was changed. The energy companies will be able to achieve a quarter of the 1.5 % obligation from a number of other measures (ETS, early action, future action, savings at source).

The European Commission presented on 6th June 2012 its communication on the renewable energy policies beyond 2020. [Communication – Renewable energy: a major player in the European energy market](#) outlines several options for renewable energy policies beyond 2020 and its integration in the energy market. The communication calls for a more coordinated European approach in the establishment and reform of support schemes and an increased use of renewable energy trading among Member States. It also stresses the importance of identification of 2030 milestones as soon as possible. According to the Commission, Europe has to address power generation investment incentives in order to allow for an integration of renewable energy. It also encourages Member States to make use of the cooperation mechanisms anchored in the Renewable Energy Directive. The cooperation mechanisms would allow Member States to reach their national binding targets by trading renewable energy between them.

Profiles of EUFORES Board of Presidents and Extended Board

In each of EUFORES newsletters, EUFORES presents some of its parliamentary members. This newsletter presents Fiona Hall, EUFORES Vice-President and two members of EUFORES Extended Board, Bendt Bendtsen and Britta Thomsen.

	<p>Fiona Hall</p> <p>Fiona is a Vice-President of EUFORES actively promoting the development of a low-carbon economy. She was first elected as a Liberal Democrat Member of the European Parliament for the North East of England in June 2004. In July 2009, Fiona was elected Leader of the Liberal Democrat European Parliamentary Party. As a member of the Industry, Research and Energy Committee in the European Parliament, Fiona has been pushing energy efficiency and renewable energy higher on the agenda of the European institutions. Fiona was shadow rapporteur on the Energy Efficiency Directive, the Renewable Energy Directive and the EPBD recast.</p>
	<p>Bendt Bendtsen</p> <p>Bendt is a Danish Member of the European Parliament and a Member of the EUFORES Extended Board. Previously he was Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Economic and Business Affairs from 2001 to 2008. In 2009, he was elected to the European Parliament where he joined the European People's Party which is the biggest political group in the parliament. Bendt is a member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy in the European Parliament.</p>



Britta Thomsen

Britta is a Danish Member of the European Parliament and a Member of the EUFORES Extended Board.

She joined the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament in 2004.

As a member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy in the European Parliament, Britta works on issues related to renewable energy and energy efficiency. She is also a member of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality.

Please click here to see the EUFORES [Board of Presidents](#) and the entire [Extended Board](#).

What is EUFORES?

[EUFORES](#) is a European cross-party parliamentary network with Members from all major political groups in the European Parliament as well as in the national EU Member States Parliaments. It is non-profit organization founded in 1995 by Members of Parliament and other key actors.

Its core objective is to promote renewable energy sources and energy efficiency and to facilitate discussion between the parliamentarians, experts, relevant decision makers and stakeholders. It organizes numerous events for parliamentarians each year, most of which take place in the European Parliament. The most important event is an annual Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency which is a meeting of parliamentarians from 27 EU Member States. This conference takes place in a different national parliament on a rotation basis.