



## EUFORES Press Release 2007

Brussels, 10 January 2007

### Strategic Energy Review of the European Commission

## European Commission fails to deliver – nice words, but a lost chance for a strong common EU energy policy

Today, the European Commission presented its [strategic energy review for the European Union](#). Its goal is to develop a common European approach for the energy sector in order to tackle issues like security of supply and climate change.

**Mechtild Rothe**, MEP and President of EUFORES, supports this general ambition: "The only way to tackle the big challenges of our energy future, we have to develop a common energy policy within the EU. Here, I fully support the Commission." However, **Rothe** declares her disappointment about missing concrete measures and the disregard of the will of the European Parliament by the Commission: "I welcome the fact, that the EU Commission wants to define the fight against climate change as one of its top priorities. Though, this long-term challenge needs more than warm words. I am very disappointed that Commission – after intensive discussions on the energy green paper - fails to come up with clear and binding legislative proposals. Here again, we lose precious time."

From the point of view of energy expert **Rothe**, the Commission's energy review fails to offer promising solutions in many respects: "If Europe wants to be global leader in the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>, it is hard to understand why Commission only sets a reduction target of 20% until 2020 and not – as foreseen and demanded by the European Parliament – a target of 30%".

The same goes for the promotion of renewable energy – set out in the [renewable energy roadmap](#) as part of the review package: "Commission criticizes the lack of efficient policy frameworks. But in the same time, by refraining from setting new sectoral targets for 2020, it endangers the existing and very successful directive on electricity from renewable energy sources from 2001", **Rothe** underlined.

Furthermore, Commission completely denies such a new and ambitious Directive including binding targets for the sector of heating and cooling from renewable energy. "This is even more outrageous since energy Commissioner Piebalgs himself had promised such a Directive which had been requested by the European Parliament. In times of gas and oil crises it is even more urgent to establish strong and ambitious European policy frameworks for the promotion of heating and cooling based on renewables. This is crucial for an effective solution of energy import dependencies and for a consistent protection of the environment", **Rothe** said.

**Claude Turmes**, MEP and Vice-President of EUFORES, also refers to the shortcomings of the energy review: "Commission President Barroso's bluster about a 'new industrial revolution' cannot mask the holes in this energy strategy. Despite the preoccupation with security of oil supply, the strategy hardly mentions the transport sector, which accounts for the lion's share of oil use."

**Turmes** also stresses: "There is overwhelming public support for energy efficiency and renewables to address the dual problems of climate change and security of supply, yet the Commission failed to put these domestic solutions at the centre of its strategy. The Commission has publicly expressed its commitment to renewable energy, but its proposals (to end the existing Directive on renewable electricity and withhold the

promised Directive on renewables in heating and cooling) would in reality damage the emerging renewables sector."

**Mechtild Rothe** adds: "Commission proposes a binding target for renewables of 20% of the overall EU energy consumption until 2020. I strongly welcome this target. However, it will be ineffective if EU Member States refuse to make it binding in the European Council." In fact, a non-binding overall target for renewables would replace existing or upcoming binding sectoral targets and thereby threaten the new markets for renewables. Investors in these new markets would experience a sensitive set-back of security for their long-term investments – a precondition for a healthy development of young markets.

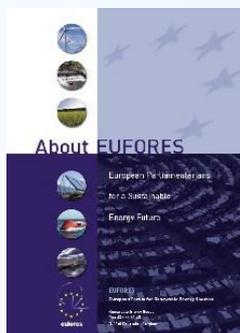
Looking beyond the energy review, **Mechtild Rothe** expresses her hope that "the German Presidency of the EU Council will transform this Commission strategy package into a promising and effective common EU energy strategy that really merits to be the solution for the energy future of Europe."

#### **Documents:**

Please find all related documents of the European Commission at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/energy\\_policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/energy_policy/index_en.htm)

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