

For immediate release: Brussels, 30 April 2012

## Renewable and District Heating & Cooling Experts Called for more Support at their Annual Conference

Euroheat & Power<sup>1</sup> and the RHC-Platform<sup>2</sup> successfully concluded their joint annual conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. Around 300 participants from over 25 countries gathered to share experiences and best practices with renewable heating and cooling technologies at building, district and city level. They all agreed that the conference, organised under the auspices of the Danish Presidency of the European Union and with support of the European Commission, exceeded expectations and demonstrated the importance of sustainable heating and cooling solutions on the road to an almost carbon-free energy landscape in 2050. The two-day conference, held 26 April through 27 April, highlighted a large spectrum of topics related to renewable heating and cooling solutions. Participants in the conference had the opportunity to visit some of the numerous initiatives in Denmark integrating renewable sources and district energy: “Project Zero” in Sonderborg, the Amager geothermal plant, the new Copenhagen District Cooling project and the Green Lighthouse in Copenhagen.

Gerhard Stryi-Hipp, President of the RHC-Platform stated: “Renewable heating and cooling technologies are crucial to solve our energy problems of growing import dependency, price increase and climate change. Policymakers ought to be more attentive to the heating and cooling sector and to allocate significant resources to its technological development. Our 2012 conference clearly showed the strong commitment of the sector to contribute to achieve the energy objectives of the European Union. The research priorities presented at the conference underlined the huge technological potential, which can be realised by a strong increase of research and development. These innovative topics should be key in the coming calls of the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme and of “Horizon 2020”, the European R&D programme for 2014-2020, which is currently under discussion.”

“As District Heating and Cooling is an important infrastructure to bring more renewable energies to urban areas, it was just natural for our organisations to team up for such a conference, and its success proves the relevance of this initiative. With more than 40% heating and cooling represents the dominant share of final energy consumption in Europe. Conference presentations showed that District Heating and Cooling are not only important to make the low-carbon future smarter, but also able to significantly boost the European economy. Nevertheless, the sector is not yet well represented in scenarios modelling our energy future. The large interest in this conference clearly shows how important it is to share our knowledge, to foster research and development and more generally to continue our efforts to raise awareness.” said Frédéric Hug, newly elected President of Euroheat & Power.

Martin Lidegaard, Denmark’s Minister for Climate, Energy and Buildings, and guest of honour at the evening reception concurred: “Denmark has an ambitious goal of becoming the first carbon-neutral economy. District Heating and Cooling is an important pillar in our strategy, as it provides flexibility and additional degrees of efficiency to our energy system. Since the first oil crisis, when we had the first major paradigm change, our industry has been successful in exporting green technology. Therefore we know that green economic growth will be our future”

The conference’s first day started with an insightful presentation by the Mayor of Copenhagen who explained the importance of District Heating and Cooling for the energy transformation in Copenhagen, which set the goal to become the first CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral capital in the world by 2025. It was followed by a panel discussion with experts from both international organisations and private companies on decarbonising the European heating and cooling markets, with lively discussions continuing over the networking lunch. In the afternoon, participants had the possibility to choose from parallel sessions focussing on a variety of sources (biomass, solar thermal, geothermal) and their integration into District Heating and Cooling systems.

The second day began with parallel morning sessions on Sustainable Cooling, Thermal Energy Storage, Hybrid Systems & Heat Pumps and Building Awareness and Acceptance. The conference concluded that renewable heating and cooling technologies, together with smart thermal energy grids, are essential components for the future smart city.

“What I liked most was the interaction. Meeting industry executives, leading researchers and senior officials from the EU, national and local administration from other parts of the world for the first time, catching up with those I have not seen in a year, and engaging in lively discussions in the sessions and afterwards is the best. I am already looking forward to next year!” said Marcel Kolb, Brugg Rohrsystem AG.

A summary from the conference will be posted on [www.conference2012.eu](http://www.conference2012.eu) in the coming weeks.

With the support of :



eu2012.dk

DANISH PRESIDENCY  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
EUROPEAN UNION 2012



## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Euroheat & Power (EHP) is the International Association of District Heating & Cooling, representing the district heating and cooling (DHC) sector in Europe and beyond, covering all aspects related to District Heating and District Cooling and related energy sources and technologies. [www.euroheat.org](http://www.euroheat.org)

<sup>2</sup> The European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating & Cooling (RHC-Platform) brings together industry, research and policy stakeholders from all over Europe to determine a common strategy for increasing the use of renewable energy technologies in heating and cooling. [www.rhc-platform.org](http://www.rhc-platform.org)

## Press contacts:

Sabine Froning, [communications@euroheat.org](mailto:communications@euroheat.org), +32 2 740 21 10 (EHP)

Simone Landolina, [info@rhc-platform.org](mailto:info@rhc-platform.org), +32 2 546 19 43 (RHC-Platform)

With the support of :

