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First annual Conference of the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling, 23-24 February 2009, Bilbao (Spain)

On 1st January 2010, Spain will take over the Presidency of the EU. The country holding the Presidency leads the Council of the European Union and acts as the driving force behind the EU's legislative and political work.

The Secretariat of the RHC-ETP is very glad to announce that the Platform's First Annual Conference will be held under the auspices of the Spanish Presidency with the joint support of the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation and of the Basque Energy Board (EVE). The event, which is organised in close collaboration with the Spanish Association of Renewable Energy Producers (APPA), will take place on the 23rd and 24th February 2010 in Bilbao.

All stakeholders of the Renewable Heating and Cooling Technology Platform are invited to attend this major event.

The detailed programme of the Conference will be available from mid-January 2010.

Launch of the RHC-ETP website

The European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling has launched, in October 2009, its official website www.rhc-platform.org. This is set to be the reference informational portal for the entire community of Stakeholders of the RHC-ETP. Each of the four Technology Panels (Biomass, Geothermal, Solar Thermal, and Cross-cutting) has a dedicated section where relevant information on activities and news for each of these technologies is frequently updated.

The Secretariat of the RHC-ETP warmly invites all stakeholders to explore the website and send us their feedback on how we can still improve it. We have also activated the dedicated email address info@rhc-platform.org which is now the primary contact for all requests of information on the RHC Technology Platform.

In the near future (ideally from December 2009), as more RHC activities are launched and the need for interaction among the Platform's Members increases, the www.rhc-platform.org website will evolve from a simple communication tool to an information exchange platform. That means, in addition of being an online vehicle for RHC-ETP news and official documents, the website will also include a "members only" area.

Your comments and suggestions on the new website are welcome (Contact: Simone Landolina: info@rhc-platform.org)



News from the Solar Thermal Technology Panel

The Steering Committee of the Solar Thermal Technology Panel (formerly known as ESTTP) met on 10th September in Brussels. Following up on the recent efforts to expand the ESTTP into a wider Platform covering the Renewable Heating and Cooling sector, the Solar Thermal Technology Panel will now focus its work on technological challenges and innovations as well as on financing mechanisms.

The Steering Committee welcomed the positive feedback on messages communicated through the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA). In Germany and in Austria, the Strategic Research Agenda is already used as a reference document. For example, the SRA provided a valuable input in new research programme development. In the national funding scheme and over the next three years, 6 mio. EUR are being allocated to solar thermal technology research and 5 mio. EUR to energy storage. This a concrete outcome of the work carried out by the Austrian Solar Thermal Technology Platform, based on the SRA delivered by the ESTTP last year.

The next meeting of the ESTTP Steering Committee will take place on 9th December in Brussels. For more information, please contact Pedro Dias, tel: +32 2546 19 38, pedro.dias@estif.org



News from the Biomass Technology Panel

During the second meeting of the biomass panel on 1 October 2009 Kari Mutka (Vapo, Finland) was elected chairman of the panel. He will lead the newly elected steering committee and function as vice-president of the RHC-ETP. It was agreed to merge two non-technological issues groups (market/policies and communication/training) so finally 4 issue groups remain:

- Biomass fuels
- Technologies for residential heating
- Technologies for industries and district heating
- Non-technological issues

You can find the minutes of this meeting and all presentations on www.rhc-platform.org.

In the meantime the panel is working on the vision document for the biomass sector (for 2020, 2030 and 2050) till the end of the year and subsequently a comprehensive document for the whole RHC sector should be available at the General Assembly. So far more than 120 stakeholders declared their interest in the biomass panel and their number is growing continuously.



News from the Geothermal Technology Panel

The geothermal panel of the RHC-ETP has been launched on 15 April 2009. It is composed today by more than 130 geothermal experts from the industry and the research sector.

The 3 Focus Groups (1: Shallow geothermal heat pump systems, 2: Deep geothermal, 3: Non technical issues) are now defining the research priorities to be further developed in the Strategic Research Agenda. First results are expected in December 2009.

In parallel, the geothermal panel is preparing its vision document 2020 & 2030. It aims at presenting the contribution of geothermal energy for heating and cooling in the EU: the potential, the trends and the market deployment in 2030.

The final document will be published end of November 2009. The results will be later integrated in the common vision of the RES heating and cooling sector.

The geothermal panel will meet again on 23rd February 2010 in Bilbao (Spain) for a mid-day session during the General Assembly of the Renewable Heating and Cooling Platform.

Moreover, the geothermal community decided to launch a technology platform on geothermal electricity, in order to have a complete coverage of the geothermal sector. The R&D activities on deep geothermal (drilling, resource assessment...) will be made in coordination with the geothermal panel on heating & cooling. The first meeting will be held on 02/12/2009 in Munich (Germany). More information is available on www.egec.org.



News from the Cross-Cutting Panel

Following its kick-off meeting in September 2009, the Cross-cutting Panel (CCP) is currently working to discuss and analyse the current technology status and potential of these cross-cutting technologies to enable an increased share of renewable technologies in the heating and cooling sector.

The leaders of the three Focus Groups in the CCP have initiated the consultation which will lead **to define and quantify the contribution of cross-cutting technologies** (district heating and cooling, thermal energy storage, and renewable energy hybrid systems, including heat pumps) **to the heating and cooling sector**. The resulting output will be integrated in the common Vision document, which will be drafted by the Horizontal Working Group on "Common Vision".

Moreover, at the next Board meeting of the RHC-ETP (8 December 2009) CCP Leaders will present **the state-of-the-art** of the respective cross-cutting technology including the **current deployment and market perspectives in the EU**. They will also explain why we can consider these **technologies "enabling" for a higher production** of heating and cooling from RES, quantifying their potential contribution by 2020, and 2030 (possibly also 2050).

Communication on Financing Low Carbon Technologies

The European Commission published, on 7th October 2009, the long awaited Communication on “Financing Low Carbon Technologies”, whose objective is to define the total financial needs of some low carbon technologies with a view to reaching the 2020 objectives.

The following technologies have been identified with a view to launching European Industrial Initiatives (public-private partnerships) in these sectors:

Technology	Total private and public investment needed in the next ten years (estimation)
<u>Wind energy</u>	6 bn€
<u>Solar electricity</u> (photovoltaics and concentrated solar power)	16 bn€
Electricity networks	2 bn€
Bio-energy (mainly for transport applications)	9 bn€
Carbon Capture and Storage	13 bn€
Nuclear fission	7 bn€
Fuel Cells and Hydrogen (a Joint Technology Initiative was launched in this area in 2008)	5 bn€
Energy Efficiency- Smart Energy Initiative	11 bn€

This Communication is focusing on those electricity technologies, which had already been identified in the Strategic Energy Technology Plan, which was adopted in November 2007. However, two important points should be stressed for the benefits of the Renewable Heating & Cooling Community:

A new initiative, covering Smart Energy Cities, has also been included. This initiative will support ambitious and pioneer cities that would transform their buildings, energy networks, and transport systems into those of the future, demonstrating transition concepts and strategies to a low carbon economy. The introduction of renewable energy technologies for heating and cooling plays an important role within this initiative. RHC-ETP is exploring opportunities to put forward demonstration projects in this area

The Communication makes reference in the paragraph dedicated to “Other technology avenues” to renewable heating and cooling, as being one promising technologies whose potential will be further analysed in the coming years. As a first step, The European Commission is preparing a **Technology Map** for the Renewable Heating and Cooling sector. This document aims at presenting the prospects of these technologies, their economics, and the timing of their contribution to Europe’s energy and climate policy goals. A first draft might be ready by the end of this year/ beginning 2010

The text of the Communication and related annexes can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/set_plan/doc/2009_comm_investing_development_low_carbon_technologies_en.pdf

This Communication was presented and discussed at the SET-Plan conference, which took place in Stockholm on 21st and 22nd October 2009, under the Swedish Presidency.

Conference on the status of European Technology Platforms

The European Commission organised its annual conference bringing together the leaders of the European Technology Platforms in Brussels on 13th October 2009: http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/seminar_en.html.

The main objective of this meeting was to discuss the role that European Technology Platforms could play in the future, once they have fulfilled their initial mission of drafting Vision, Strategic Research Agenda, and Implementation Plan.

Main suggestions focused on the enlargement of the scope of the ETPs in order to include Innovation and Education in their mission, or to merge some Technology Platforms into activity clusters to better deal with the so-called “grand societal challenges”, such as climate change, the ageing of the population, and other subjects. These Social Platforms would stimulate high risk projects, and, in order to achieve this objective, all stakeholders (including NGOs) should be part of it.

This discussion applies only in a minor way to the RHC-ETP yet, since our Platform has just recently been launched and still needs to draft and finalise its Vision, Strategic Research Agenda, and Implementation Plan.

Forthcoming events

- **19th November 2009**
Biomass Steering Committee
- **2nd December 2009**
Meeting of the Technology Platform on Geothermal electricity in Munich
- **8th December 2009**
Board meeting in Brussels (at the premises of EuroHeat&Power)
- **9th December 2009**
Solar Thermal Steering Committee in Brussels
- **23rd and 24th February 2010**
First Annual Conference of the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling

The RHC-ETP is official Associate of the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign.



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