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Editorial

Dear Members and supporters of the RHC-Platform

The **2nd Annual Conference of the RHC-Platform**, which took place in Budapest on 5 and 6 May 2011, proved to be a great success and a highlight in the RHC-Platform calendar. We were delighted that high level speakers such as the Director for New and renewable sources of energy, Energy efficiency & Innovation, Marie Donnelly, gave a speech at the conference stressing the importance of Renewable Heating and Cooling for achieving the European goals of 20-20-20 and 80% CO₂ emissions reduction by 2050.

We took the opportunity of the conference to present the **Common Vision for the Renewable Heating and Cooling Sector in Europe**, which can be found at www.rhc-platform.org. This publication is the first outcome of the very fruitful cooperation between the different sectors of the RHC-Platform. I want to personally thank all the actors who contributed to this document and especially Burkhard Sanner for his coordination work.

It is good to see that currently in all panels of the RHC-Platform the level of activity is increasing and the working structures are being renewed. The solar thermal panel has already selected a new steering committee and other panels have initiated the selection process or will follow within the coming months. The creation of several working groups has been initiated, both within the panels and the horizontal working group, in connection with policy at the RHC-Platform level.

The RHC-Platform actively contributed to the development of the "Smart Cities and Communities Initiative" which was launched as part of the SET-plan on 21 June. As a result of our input we feel confident that the new FP7 calls to be published soon (see further on in this newsletter) will include a budget allocation for the development of renewable heating and cooling systems in Smart Cities. Still on this topic, much additional work is ongoing, including an interesting conference and exhibition on Smart Intelligent Cities, taking place in Hamburg on 8-10 November 2011. The RHC-Platform will be represented at this event to discuss with numerous and diverse stakeholders how to transform today's cities through the large-scale adoption of intelligent systems and renewable energy.

A positive sign is the growth of the RHC-Platform, we count now more than 500 members. I am convinced that this is only the beginning, therefore I would ask you to continue promoting the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling and to invite your professional contacts to join us as well.

I wish you a wonderful summer break and hope to see you at RHC-Platform-events in the second half of 2011 or at the 3rd annual conference which will take place in Denmark in the spring of 2012.

Best regards



Gerhard Striy-Hipp

Fraunhofer-ISE
President of the RHC-Platform

The 2nd RHC-Platform Conference Budapest 5 and 6 May 2011

Facts and figures

- 140 Participants
- 21 Countries
- 43 high-level speakers
- 8 sessions
- Supported by the EC (DG Energy) and by the Hungarian Presidency of the EU
- Organised by EUREC, AEBIOM, EGEN and ESTIF in collaboration with REECO





News from the Solar Thermal Technology Panel

The European Solar Thermal Technology Panel (ESTTP) recently selected a new Steering Committee composed of 15 members from nine different countries, including Turkey.

These members have diverse experience in the solar thermal field and come from various backgrounds, either from the private or public sector, representing industry, research, educational and (inter) governmental fields. The complete list of the Committee members is available [here](#).

The Steering Committee has a major role to play in leading and strengthening the work of the Solar Thermal Technology Panel of the RHC-Platform, including the revision of the Strategic Research Agenda and the development of the Solar Thermal Technology Roadmap, besides all the contributions to the work developed in the RHC-Platform.

The new Steering Committee has already held its first meeting on 4 July 2011 at the Renewable Energy House in Brussels. During this meeting, both the work done so far by the ESTTP and the challenges lying ahead were reviewed. In particular, an assessment of the European market after two difficult years and a discussion on the part that R&D and the ESTTP can play in providing further dynamism to the sector.

The ESTTP steering committee also examined priorities for the forthcoming period, including an update of the Strategic Research agenda issued in 2008 and the conclusion of the Solar Thermal Technology Roadmap. So that the work can progress with a strong involvement from the solar thermal support group within the RHC-Platform, it was agreed to create/reactivate the solar thermal working groups.

Also considered were the priorities in terms of Research, Development and Demonstration proposals for future calls sponsored by the European Commission, in particular for Horizon 2020 (FP8), these will be addressed in September when the

RHC-Platform is expected to come up with its proposals to DG Energy.

The next meeting of the ESTTP Steering Committee is scheduled for 14 September 2011 in Brussels.

For more information please contact: Pedro Dias, pedro.dias@estif.org or visit: www.rhc-platform.org



News from the Biomass Technology Panel

Large stakeholder consultation for the biomass SRA

Platform members and also other stakeholders can give their input to the current draft of the biomass SRA until September. If you haven't yet received the document by email you can also download it [here](#). After collecting a large variety of research priorities over the last year the main task now lies in identifying the most important topics and value chains for the next European research programmes. Please use this possibility to bring your ideas and expectations forward. We are counting on your input.

Biomass panel joins forces with Expobioenergia on 18 October

The next meeting of the biomass panel will be organized on 18 October in Valladolid/Spain in collaboration with [Expobioenergia](#), the largest biomass exhibition and congress in Southern Europe. The presentations of the biomass SRA and of the research perspectives of key companies and research institutes will highlight the event. Furthermore, elections for both the steering committee and board positions will be held – the perfect way to increase your involvement in the RHC platform. Just fill in the application form available [here](#). We are looking forward to seeing you in Spain!



News from the Geothermal Technology Panel

The first half of 2011 was a busy period for the Geothermal Panel of the RHC-Platform and also a time for reflection with the consolidation of the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) being top priority.

Looking back, the Panel achieved an impressive participation at the workshops organised during the RHC-Platform Conference in Budapest in May 2011 .

The Summer period now leads into the last phase of finalising the SRA, as it is now being considered by the Steering Committee of the Geothermal Panel, before one last consultation with members of the Panel which will include a validation workshop on 2 September 2011.

This workshop will represent an excellent opportunity for a final group review of the SRA, ensuring the delivery of a dynamic and cutting edge document by the end of 2011.

This meeting of the Geothermal Panel will be the first of the newly mandated Steering Committee 2011-2013.

Applications for the new Steering Committee are welcome until 1 August to com@egec.org, with selection being undertaken mid-August and the new Committee announced at the beginning of September.

This will be an optimal transition moment between the current Steering Committee, who has dedicated significant efforts in consolidating the SRA, and the new Steering Committee who will carry the work forward to develop the Implementation Roadmap over the phase 2012.

Other issues of interest to the Geothermal Panel will be finding ways to interact with the Smart Cities and Communities Initiative as it is rolled out, and also with the SET Plan.

The work of the Geothermal Panel will be crucial in underlining the role of geothermal in renewable heating & cooling in Europe, especially as we move from the established FP7, to the development of the new Horizon 2020 framework programme.



News from the Cross-Cutting Technology Panel

What is the impact of cross-cutting technologies on the use of renewable energy sources for heating and cooling?

What are the specific scientific and technologic priorities for improving thermal energy storage and for effectively integrating multiple sources in hybrid renewable heating and cooling systems?

Since March 2011, two groups of experts have been working to provide solid answers to these questions, with the objective of producing two papers to be integrated in the Strategic Research Agenda of the RHC-Platform (to be published next year).

On 28 September 2011, the Cross-Cutting Panel is launching its Focus Group 1 to look into technological and non-technological measures for increasing the share of renewables in district heating and cooling networks.

By then, the Cross-Cutting Panel will be working under the guidance of a new and larger Steering Committee. On 17 June 2011 the Secretariat of the RHC-Platform launched a call for expression of interest with the aim to identify and select 12 experts to serve as Steering Committee members and three experts as Leaders of the Focus Groups. The appointment of the new Steering Committee is expected by August 2011.

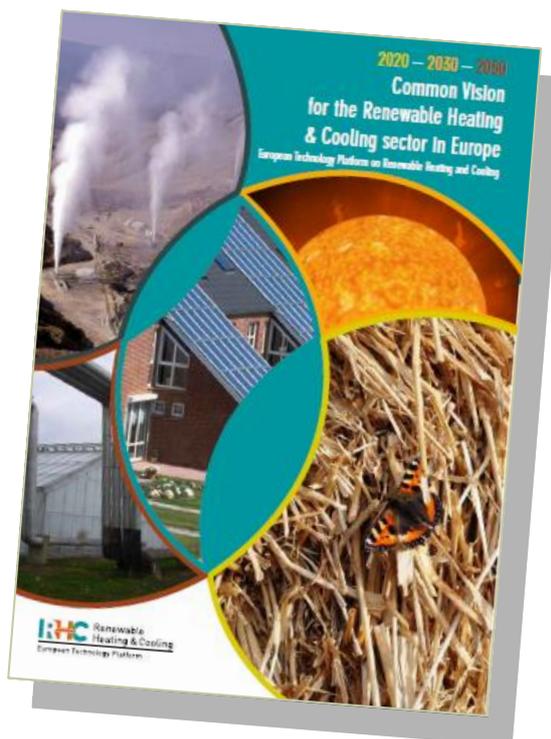
More information at:
www.rhc-platform.org

The RHC-Platform launches its Common Vision: 100% Renewable Heating and Cooling before 2050

Around 150 European experts from the Renewable Heating and Cooling sector met in Budapest on 5 and 6 May at the 2nd Annual Conference of the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling (RHC-Platform).

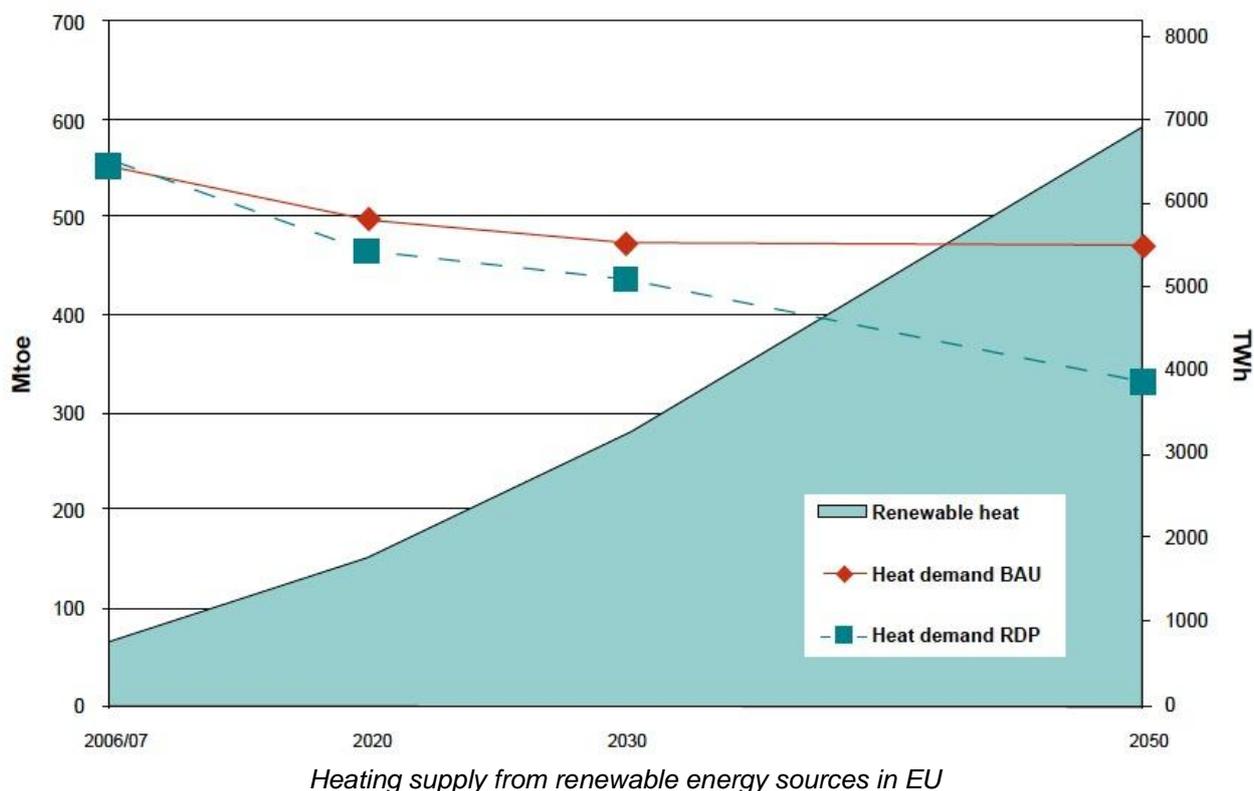
Experts are convinced that biomass, geothermal and solar thermal energy, together with heat pumps can cover 100% of Europe's heating and cooling demand before the year 2050, as outlined in the new "Common Vision" publication now available on the RHC-Platform website at:

www.rhc-platform.org



To realise this huge potential, the RHC-Platform advocates a significant budget increase for research and development in renewable heating and cooling technologies over the next few years.

Building on its Common Vision, the RHC-Platform has now started working to produce a shared Strategic Research Agenda including the specific scientific and technological priorities where investments are needed to make renewable energy systems fully cost competitive



FP7 - Funding opportunities for renewable heating and cooling technologies



On 19 July 2011 the European Commission is planning to publish a number of Calls for Proposals under the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) relevant to renewable energy technologies for heating and cooling.

In particular, following the launch on 21 June of the European Initiative on Smart Cities and Communities, the European Commission will allocate 40 million Euros to the call “**FP7-ENERGY-SMARTCITIES-2012**” which consists of two topics highly relevant to renewable heating and cooling technologies:

- Strategic sustainable planning and screening of city planning (Coordinating Action).
- Large scale systems for urban area heating and/or cooling supply (Collaborative Project)

Through this last topic, the EC expects to support around three projects, which “*should have a high potential of replication contributing to large scale market deployment before 2020. The demonstration should happen at district level, but with the aim to deploy at city wide level in the near future.*” (Source: EC).

Pooling resources from five different Themes of the FP7 specific programme “Cooperation”, the EC is planning to spend about 35 million € on industry-led demonstration projects of “nearly Zero Energy Buildings” (topic relevant to the Energy-efficient Buildings PPP).

Stakeholders of the Solar Thermal Technology Panel will have an additional opportunity to access EU funds for research activities through the call **FP7-ENERGY-2012-1**. The EC would support one or two Collaborative Projects with focus on “Research and Development for Medium Temperature Range Solar Collectors (100°-250°C). This call is subject to a two-step selection process and the deadline for the first stage is **25 October 2011**.

The Geothermal and Cross-Cutting Technology Panels' stakeholders will also find an interesting topic in the call FP7-ENERGY-2012-1: the EC will also support up to two projects aimed at developing the next generation of heat pump technologies.

The Secretariat of the RHC-Platform participated in the info-day held in Brussels on 7 July 2011, and is available for providing additional information to its Members about these new funding opportunities under FP7.

More information at ec.europa.eu

Forthcoming events

RHC-Platform official events:

- **2 September 2011 - Brussels**
Meeting of the Geothermal Technology Panel.
- **28 September 2011 - Brussels**
Meeting of the Cross-cutting Technology Panel, FG1: District Heating and Cooling
- **18 to 20 October 2011 - Valladolid**
Meeting of the Biomass Technology Panel at Expobioenergía

Other events

- **20 to 21 October 2011 - Marseille**
ESTEC 2011: 5th European Solar Thermal Energy Conference
- **8 to 10 November 2011 - Hamburg**
Intelligent Cities Expo and Conference
Special for RHC-Platform members:
25% discount on entrance fee.
Call +44 1306 871 342.
- **6 to 7 December 2011 - Milan**
GeoPower Europe: Third Annual Official Meeting of the European Geothermal Energy Council

Publisher



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