

RHC-ETIP, place du champ de Mars 2, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

European Commission
Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Brussels, 25 October 2016

Request of actions to overcome the shortcomings for Renewable Heating & Cooling technologies in the SET-Plan and in H2020

Dear Vice-President Šefčovič,

The European Technology and Innovation Platform for Renewable Heating and Cooling (RHC-ETIP) has been working since 2008 to unlock the technological and market potential of the RHC technologies to be able to build up a sustainable energy system in Europe.

RHC technologies have become a part of the SET-Plan process since the beginning. We highly appreciated that the Integrated Roadmap, to which we contributed actively, regards RHC technologies as important as the Renewable Electricity technologies. The roadmaps developed by the RHC-ETIP are fully in line with the goals of Action 1 and 2 of the Communication on the SET-Plan published in September 2015.

Also with the Energy Union and the Heating and Cooling Strategy, the Commission made clear that European energy policy is not any longer focused on electricity only and that RHC technologies are as important as Renewable Electricity technologies.

Against this background we want to raise your awareness that the current European energy policy framework still hampers the Renewable Heating and Cooling (RHC) sector to unlock its technological and market potential. If this situation is sustained, the RHC sector will not be able to deliver its contribution needed to achieve the European energy and climate goals.

Therefore, **we would like to ask for your support in ensuring that specific actions are implemented to overcome the discrimination of RHC technologies and create a level playing field with other energy technologies.**

Up to now, RHC technologies are neither represented equally in the relevant documents of the SET-Plan nor sufficiently funded in the Horizon 2020 programme. Therefore, we ask you to support actions to:

1. Develop and publish Issue Papers on RHC-technologies in the framework of the SET-Plan and publish separate Priorities for RHC-technologies within Actions 1&2 and, consequently, work on related Declarations of Intent with the RHC stakeholders.
2. Provide separate budget lines in the Horizon 2020 LCE calls 2018-2020 for RHC technologies and for Renewable Electricity technologies.

After having the heating & cooling sector brought successfully on the political agenda, these actions are necessary to enable the RHC sector to be actively engaged and contribute to the European energy policy as needed.

Please find attached a background paper explaining our position in detail.

We thank you very much in advance for any support and looking forward to your response. For discussions, we remain available.

With kind regards

Gerhard Stryi-Hipp
President RHC

Rainer Janssen
Chair Biomass Panel

Bernd Hafner
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CC: SET-Plan secretariat