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### Editorial: The involvement of the RHC-Platform in the SET-Plan process

by Gerhard Stryi-Hipp

Dear Members of the RHC-Platform,

2015 was a year of increased activities on energy policy in the European Union.

In the Communication from the Commission (COM), adopted on the 15th September 2015 “Towards and Integrated Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan: Accelerating the European Energy System Transformation”, the COM presents ten actions to accelerate the energy system transformation and create jobs and growth. The most relevant for the RHC-Platform are:

1. Sustain technological leadership by developing highly performant renewable technologies and their integration in the EU's energy system
2. Reduce the cost of key technologies
3. Create technologies and services for smart homes that provide smart solutions to energy consumers
4. Increase the resilience, security and smartness of the energy system

The headline for Number 1 and 2 is „Number 1 in renewable energy“, the headline for Number 3 and 4 is „The future smart EU energy system“. This shows that renewable energy sources (RES) are from high relevance in EU energy policy, however, only 2 of 10 actions are directly related with RES. If this really leads to improved support in RES research and market deployment must be proven in practice.

In parallel, a new SET-Plan governance was proposed by COM. European Technology and Innovation Platforms (ETIPs) will in future replace European Technology Platforms (ETPs) and European Industrial Initiatives (EII) as stakeholders' networks to define research and development priorities for their respective sectors.

Some of the main principles for ETIPs are:

- There is only one stakeholder platform per technology
- Stronger involvement of Member States
- Continuous financial support for basic services of the platforms (financing of secretariats)
- Self-organisation and flexibility as an overarching principle.

As a very important action, the COM will be drafting issue papers per technology with a view to agreeing on common targets in the coming months. These papers will be discussed at a meeting of the SET-Plan Steering Group. The first issue papers focus on PV, offshore wind, and solar thermal electricity. The issue paper for the RHC sector is expected to be developed in the first half year of 2016.

The issues related to how this new organisation will impact the structure and governance of the RHC-Platform will be discussed at the next RHC-Board meeting.

These issues include:

- How to actively involve Member States
- How to ensure a stronger link with EERA (European Energy research Alliance) and other organisations (e.g. EUA-EPUE, European Platform of Universities active in Energy research)
- How to involve “new” stakeholders such as NGOs
- Active industry involvement: at what level?
- How to organise input to the Commission's issue paper

The good news is, that the importance of ETPs (and in future ETIPs) for EU energy policy is increasing. With that in mind we are looking forward to work with you advocating for further improvements for RHC technologies also in 2016.

With my very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Gerhard Stryi-Hipp  
President of the European Technology Platform  
on Renewable Heating & Cooling

 Seasons  
Greetings

## New contract for the secretariat of the RHC-Platform

The current secretariat of the RHC-Platform, composed by EUREC, AEBIOM, ESTIF, EGEC and EHPA, together with VITO, EURAC and Fraunhofer-ISE, has been awarded the contract by the European Commission to support the activities of the European Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling.

The contract will run for forty months from 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The main activities are organised around four Work Packages:

- **WP1- Monitoring of the status of Implementation of the five Technology Roadmaps.** Its objective is to monitor the implementation of the five Implementation Roadmaps, which were published by the European Technology Platform in 2014. It is organised in sectorial Work Tasks:
  - WT1.1- Biomass
  - WT1.2- Geothermal
  - WT1.3- Solar Thermal
  - WT1.4- Cross-cutting (with a focus on DHC and heat pumps)
  - WT1.5- Common Implementation Roadmap
- **WP2- Analysis of the heating and cooling industry.** Its objective is to assess the status of the heating and cooling industry in Europe, and its competitiveness on the global market, providing a snapshot of the supply side in the heating and cooling sector. This WP is led by EURAC and is structured around three Work tasks:
  - WT2.1- Analysis of existing information on heating and cooling industry
  - WT2.2- Survey for the heating and cooling industry competitiveness
  - WT2.3- Elaboration of data and final report
- **WP3- Analysis of the heating and cooling consumers.** Its objective is to carry out a thorough analysis of the heating and cooling consumers to cover: consumer behaviour, socio-economic impact, risk perception with regard to innovative technological solutions, business models. This WP is co-led by VITO and Fraunhofer-ISE and is structured around six Work Tasks:
  - WT3.1- Set up of an expert network for consumer experts
  - WT3.2- Initial state of play on consumer analysis, Risk perception and business models
  - WT 3.3- Development of the final analytic structure
  - WT 3.4- Stakeholder oriented data collection in all countries
  - WT 3.5- Recommendations and Validation Workshops with experts on policy solutions and business models
  - WT3.6- Final report
- **WP4- Dissemination.** This WP led by EUREC is structured around two Work Tasks:
  - WT4.1- Final event to be organised in Brussels at Month 38 (January 2019) for around 100 people
  - WT4.2- Final study report to be finalised by Month 39 (February 2019)

For further information, please contact [Paola Mazzucchelli](#)

## European Heating Strategy of the European Union

On 9 September, the European Commission organized the EU Heating and Cooling Strategy Consultation Forum, conveying all the relevant stakeholders in Brussels for a day-long debate on the incoming strategy.

The debate focused on the issues raised in five papers the Commission disseminated earlier in July, addressing the following topics: decarbonisation of heating and cooling use in buildings; heating and cooling use in industry and the tertiary sector; heating and cooling technologies, linking heating and cooling with electricity; integrated planning and mapping and scenarios for heating and cooling. All stakeholders presented their answers to the EC.

Later in November, a draft of the incoming Heat Strategy from the European Commission leaked. The text contains a set of planned actions that overall would set a positive framework for the renewable heating and cooling sector. Those actions should then be turned into legislative measures to be introduced in relevant EU legislation by means of the revision of the Renewable Energy Directive, the Energy Efficiency Directive, and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, planned for 2016.

The strategy focuses on four main aspects: decarbonisation of the heating and cooling in industry, the buildings sector, removing the barriers to financing, and integrated planning. On the industry sector, the strategy proposes the inclusion of heating and cooling products in the commercial and industrial sectors in Ecodesign & Energy Labelling; an assessment of barriers and measures to promote renewable heating and cooling; the promotion of advanced heating and cooling metering; and the creation of sectorial dialogues with industrial representatives.

On the building sector, the strategy plans to speed-up the renovation rate of the building stock through EPBD and EED revisions and to include a minimum share of renewable energy for heating and hot water supply upon replacement of heating systems in 2030 proposals. The strategy also envisages the inclusion of incentives or obligations to deploy renewables energies in buildings in the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme for energy companies, and the inclusion of the decarbonisation from the electric grid and cooling and gas networks are reflected in the energy performance certificates.

On financing, the strategy plans to carry an assessment of the validity of state aid rules for the promotion of DHC; the promotion of energy services contracting; the revision of Eurostat budget accounting rules, the implementation of the Smart Financing for Smart Building Initiative, and the phasing out of below-cost regulated prices for energy.

On integrated planning, the strategy intends to integrate heating and cooling considerations in incoming legislation review, include decarbonisation goals for H&C in energy governance, and to spread best practices, increase information, expertise and knowledge on the sector. It also plans to better include heating and cooling in EU modelling, and in national plans and reports.

The European Heating and Cooling Strategy was presented and discussed during the last Board Meeting of the RHC-Platform held on 12 October 2015. No action is currently requested by the RHC-Platform on this topic. The secretariat will invite the European Commission/DG ENERGY/ Energy Efficiency Unit to officially present the Strategy when adopted.

For further information please contact [Pedro Dias](#).





## News from the Solar Thermal Technology Panel

On the 13th of October, at the third meeting of the Steering Committee in 2015, the Panel decided to hold an ESTTP workshop on the 1st and 2nd of March, 2016 focusing on wide range of “hot topics”, starting from the Horizon 2020 funding programme of the EU, through solar thermal priority issues (such as the solar active houses, solar heat for industrial application, hybrid systems, district heating, energy storage) to the Energy Union itself. SMEs and companies within and beyond the EU are encouraged to join and the agenda is designed to be interesting for both industry and research representatives.

We are looking forward to seeing you as well at the ESTTP workshop on the 1st and 2nd of March, 2016 in Brussels!

An ESTTP Workshop Committee is working on the organization and the next ESTTP SC meeting is scheduled to take place on 27th January 2016 in Brussels to further discuss the details of the workshop.



## News from the Biomass Technology Panel

The biomass panel has been relatively dormant during 2015, but is now reactivating. At the moment there are 173 members in the biomass panel representing industry, research, consultants and organizations active in the bioenergy sector. The steering committee was elected in May 2014 and the mandate lasts for two years, so new elections are foreseen in the first half of 2016. At the moment the steering committee consists of six issue group leaders and nine other members from 9 different countries.

So far, the effectiveness of the Platform’s Biomass Panel speaks for itself – it has been very successful in identifying for the EC the topics in which RD&D activities are required and seeing them included in the EC documents such as the Horizon 2020 Work Programme and the SET-Plan Integrated Roadmap. This good work will be continued with the update of the roadmaps done previously on the platform. The current status of development will also be compared to the roadmaps during the next year to see where we are going.

The recruitment of new members is an ongoing activity and especially members from industry are welcome to strengthen the voice of the panel.



## News from the Geothermal Technology Panel

### More European Support for Geothermal Projects than Ever Before

During 2014 and 2015 the Geothermal Panel focused on implementing the Geothermal Technology Roadmap by supporting the progress of European RD&I projects in line with the priorities identified in it.

A series of workshops, webinars, and B2B Brokerage events were held over 18 months resulting much more European support for Geothermal projects than ever before.

Under the H2020 programme 2014 calls, four projects were accepted. For deep drilling, these are 'Thermodrill' and 'DESCRAMBLE' and for shallow drilling 'Cheap-GSHPs' and GeoTech. More research projects for which proposals were made in the 2015 calls are currently under negotiation. The EC has announced that €96.6 M will be allocated to geothermal, out of a total €553.8M.

'Thermodrill' will see the development of an innovative drilling system based on the combination of conventional rotary drilling with water jetting which will allow at least 50% faster drilling in hard rock, a cost reduction of more than 30% for the subsurface construction, and a minimized risk of induced seismic activity.

'DESCRAMBLE' will develop novel drilling technologies for a 'proof-of-concept test' of reaching deep geothermal resources. The first drilling in the world in an intra-continental site at a middle-crustal level will be performed.

'Cheap-GSHPs' aims at the reduction of the total cost of low enthalpy geothermal systems by 20-30 % by improving drilling/installation technologies and designs of Ground Source Heat Exchangers (GSHE's) and using a holistic approach for optimum selection, design and implementation of complete systems across

different underground and climactic conditions. GEOT€CH will develop a drilling technique based on dry auger methods, requiring less capital-intensive equipment, enhancing safety and avoiding the environmental risks, complexity and costs of dealing with water supplies and contaminated waste. It will also look at better integration between heat exchange elements during installation by developing an innovative heat exchanger achieving high levels of thermal performance with low pressure loss.

All presentations from the events organised by the TP geothermal can be found at [www.egec.info/projects/geothermal-panel](http://www.egec.info/projects/geothermal-panel).



### The Geothermal Panel in 2015/2016

Geothermal Panel activities will continue by monitoring the results of EU and national projects. This will feed into an update of the implementation roadmap, with a review of how far the technology has progressed since the documents publication in 2014, and an assessment of where future development is needed.

An analysis of the competitiveness of the European geothermal industry will also be conducted in 2016. Looking across the supply chain and at different business models, this will provide a good indication of where the European market is positioned globally, and what challenges need to be addressed in an internal market. Export strategies and opportunities for international cooperation will be developed, and issues around knowledge and technology transfer will be investigated.

## Steering Committee updates

At a meeting on the 6th March 2015, the steering committee elected a new chairman, Javier Urchuegia (Geoplat), and vice chairs, Burkard Sanner (EGEC) and Fausto Batini (Magma/Rete geotermica). The other members of the steering committee are Victor Van Heekeren (SPG), Atila Kujbus (Geoex), Inga Berre (CMR), Luc Pockele (RED), and Jake Salisbury (GSHPA)

### In Memorandum: Michael Stibitz

The work of the panel cannot be reflected on without acknowledging the excellent work of Dr Michael Stibitz, who passed away this year. An important member of the panel steering committee, he is remembered fondly as a trustworthy and diligent colleague and friend.



## News from the Cross-cutting Technology Panel

The new Cross-Cutting panel is composed as follows:

- Industry (7 members):
  - Frank Salg- Vaillant
  - Bertrand Guillemot- Dalkia
  - Pietro Brevi- Robur
  - Basilio Guerra- Enerconsult
  - Hakki Tigli- Mitas Digas Energi
  - Wim Welden- EnergyGo, Focus Group leader for Thermal Energy Storage
  - Wolfram Sparber- SEL Group, Focus Group leader for Hybrid Systems

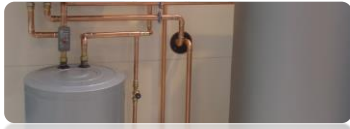
- Research and others (8 members):
  - Michael Monsberger- AIT
  - Philippe Papillon- CEA-INES
  - Michel Haller- Institut für Solartechnik SPF, University of Applied Sciences Rapperswil
  - Luisa Cabeza- University of Lleida
  - Johan Desmedt- VITO
  - Burkhard Sanner- EGEC
  - Maurizio Repetto- Politecnico Torino
  - Alessandro Provaggi- EuroHeat&Power, Focus Group leader on DHC

The representatives of the Cross-Cutting panel to the RHC-Board are:

- Wim Welden- EnergyGo, Focus Group leader for Thermal Energy Storage
- Wolfram Sparber- SEL Group, Focus Group leader for Hybrid Systems
- Alessandro Provaggi- EuroHeat&Power, Focus Group leader on DHC
- Philippe Papillon- INES- Research- TES&HS
- Johan Desmedt- VITO- Research- DHC&TES
- Michel Haller- Institut für Solartechnik SPF- Research- TES&HS

The first webinar of the newly elected Steering Committee of the Cross-Cutting Panel took place on 5th May 2015. It was agreed to put the activities of the CCP on hold until the result of the evaluation of the call for tender related to the RHC-Platform is known.

The next call of the Cross-Cutting panel will take place at the beginning of 2016 in order to concretely discuss its contribution to the future work of the RHC-Platform.



## News from the Heat Pump Technology Panel

The Heat Pump Panel had its kick off meeting on the 8th of September in Brussels at the Renewable Energy House.

The participants discussed important issues related to Horizon 2020 programme with Szilvia Bozsoki from DG ENER, such as: the low success rate and discrepancy between the number calls for proposals for renewable electricity and renewable heating and cooling. The panel took also the chance to ask for more recognition for heat pumps in the programme, as it could help to overcome the barriers that hamper a proper deployment of heat pumps on the market.

Furthermore, the online vote to elect the chair and vice chairs of the panel was officially launched. The vote lasted for two weeks and finally, Dave Pearson (Director of Star Renewable Energy) was elected chair of the panel and Hatem Madani (Assistant professor at KTH) and Michael Monsberger (Professor at Graz University) were elected vice presidents of the panel.

The next meeting of the Heat Pump Panel will take place in Brussels at the Renewable Energy House on the 27th of January and it will focus on the Horizon 2020 bids dedicated to heat pumps and on new research and demonstration proposals that will be developed within the Panel and presented to the Commission for the 2018-2019 programme.

Save the date!  
**Heat Pump Forum 2016**  
18-20 May 2016 |Paris

**A conference bringing together key players from the heat pump industry, the European Union and national governments.**

[www.forum.ehpa.org](http://www.forum.ehpa.org)

