



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**EREC – European Renewable Energy Council**

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# **EREC Dinner Debate: “Too early for the harmonisation of support mechanisms for Renewables Electricity”**

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**EREC (European Renewable Energy Council)** hosted the dinner debate “Renewable Energy Sources, the Solution for the Future” at the European Parliament on 24 January 2005. Around 110 participants from the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, and numerous associations and industry representations, active in the field of renewables as well as other areas, took part in the event.

Professor Arthouros Zervos, President of the European Renewable Energy Council, the keynote speaker of the event, presented the European renewable energy industries’ view on the future of support mechanisms for renewables electricity. He outlined the development of renewable energies and pointed out challenges for the future. A clear message of his speech was that renewable energy sources are a fast growing economic sector, and that renewable energy technologies are well suited to reduce the dependence on energy imports, thereby offering answers to security of supply issues and delivering substantial greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

“It is too early for a European-wide harmonisation. As long as serious market distortions in the conventional power markets exist, we should refrain from talking about the new renewables market”, Zervos said, thus expressing the industries’ point

of view on RES-E support mechanisms. Rather than harmonising the different systems, the EU can boost the sector's development through ensuring the proper installation and putting into national law of existing EU legislation in all Member States. Further improvements on the European level shall be made in the administrative sector and problems related to grid access and transmission for renewables shall be solved as soon as possible.

An additional briefing, published recently by EREC, emphasizes that effective competition in the conventional power market is a precondition for harmonizing support mechanisms for power from renewable energy sources. This briefing, which identifies a true "myth of effective competition in conventional power markets", is downloadable from the [EREC website](#), as well as the full version of EREC's latest Position Paper on the future of support systems for RES-E.

"A clear sign from the European Commission to the renewables sector would be to propose mandatory national targets for renewables for 2010 and 2020 – they are needed already today, not tomorrow!" Zervos added.

In addition Zervos called for further action on the EU level in the area of renewables heating and cooling. While there is already a legislative framework for renewables electricity and biofuels, the heating sector is an untapped potential.

"Nearly half of our energy consumption is needed for heating and we still don't have a legislation implemented in this field that supports the development of renewable heating and cooling installations. I hope the EU institutions, especially the always proactive Parliament is coming up soon with an initiative in this sector" Arthouros Zervos ended.

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