

PRESS RELEASE

Renewables: Chambers criticize fixed prices promotion schemes

EUROCHAMBRES, the European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, urged Member States to install efficient promotion schemes for renewables which foster the technological innovation and competition between suppliers.

Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *"Implementing the EU Directive for the promotion of renewable energy sources, most of the Member States currently support schemes with fix prices which simply guarantee revenues over an extensive period of time. This does not encourage the renewable electricity generators to reduce costs and make their products saleable and impedes innovation."*

Today's support schemes for renewables in the Member States will probably lead to financial burdens for household and commercial electricity consumers of more than €10 billion in 2010.

The European Business Community urges the European Commission especially to

- Ø support promotion systems that strengthen the competitiveness of renewables and exclude an over-financing of renewable energy plants in case of technological and economic progress;
- Ø reconsider the setting of national quantitative targets as they do not allow an efficient allocation of renewable energy plants in the single market;
- Ø prevent increasing burdens on commercial consumers;
- Ø encourage the Member States to streamline project planning and permission procedures and set up an "one stop shop" especially for small projects and to insure reliable access to the grid;
- Ø replace the specific support schemes for renewables after 2010 by general instruments, e. g. emission trading, for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Next week, the future of renewables will be discussed at the European Conference "Intelligent Policy Options" in Berlin (January 19-21).

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