

12 October 2012

Dear Reader,

It is my pleasure to inform you about the EUFORES activities in the next months. There are several exciting events planned for the rest of the year.

EUFORES feels very much honored that Commissioners attend the EUFORES breakfast roundtables with Members of the European Parliament almost on a regular basis. Environment Commissioner Potocnik joined the MEP Group of EUFORES in September. Commissioner Quinn who manages the portfolio of Research, Innovation and Science, will attend the breakfast roundtable in December. Those breakfast roundtables are held every Wednesday during the plenary session in Strasbourg.

At the EUFORES General Assembly in September, the Board of Presidents was reelected and confirmed in their positions. Claude Turmes will continue in his position of the EUFORES President. Fiona Hall and Anni Podimata will hold the positions of the EUFORES Vice-Presidents. EUFORES is happy to have such a recognized Board of Presidents who make a significant contribution to renewable and energy efficiency policies.

We are very much looking forward to the next Inter-Parliamentary Meeting which will take place in the Hellenic Parliament on the 23rd and 24th of November. This high-level conference will gather a number of Members of national Parliaments, national and European civil servants as well as Members of the European Parliament and several established experts.

Jan Geiss
Secretary General EUFORES

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EUFORES Upcoming events

- **Parliamentary Dinner: Future market designs for renewables**

When: 6 November 2012

Where: European Parliament, Brussels

Background information: At this parliamentary dinner, the future of the support mechanisms for renewable energy sources and new market designs for electricity and heating & cooling will be discussed. The dinner will be organised as a panel discussion of experts and practitioners from various renewable energy sectors.

- **Breakfast Roundtable: Advisory Committee**

When: 14 November 2012

Where: European Parliament, Brussels

Background information: This breakfast roundtable is a meeting of EUFORES supporting members with the Members of the European Parliament. The supporting members of EUFORES brief MEPs on current issues in their respective sectors and make MEPs aware of the bottlenecks in the EU or national legislation.

- **EUFORES Inter-Parliamentary Meeting (IPM12)**

When: 23 -24 November 2012

Where: Athens, Greece

Background information: The annual Inter-Parliamentary Meeting is a high-level conference for Members of Parliaments from all over Europe with selected experts from the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency. The conference is the key platform for related discussions among key decision makers within the EU.

- **Breakfast Roundtable: EEW2 Irish Presidency Briefing**

When: 27 November 2012

Where: European Parliament, Brussels

Background information: This Breakfast roundtable, a part of the Energy Efficiency Watch 2 project, gathers MEPs, experts and representatives of the upcoming Irish presidency in the Council with the aim to discuss priorities of the Irish presidency concerning energy efficiency. In addition to this, the results of the EU-wide survey on implementation of energy efficiency policies in the Member States will be presented.

- **Workshop: Energy efficiency policies in EU 27 – failing or successful?**

When: 28 November 2012

Where: European Parliament, Brussels

Background information: The workshop will present results of the EU wide survey on the implementation of energy efficiency policies across Europe. Personal interviews with experts and practitioners from every Member State provided a high-quality input in an overview of the implementation status in the EU 27. The survey was part of the Energy-Efficiency-Watch project coordinated by EUFORES.

EUFORES News

EUFORES Board of Presidents reelected

On the 4th of September, the EUFORES General Assembly took place in which the current EUFORES board, President Claude Turmes, Vice-President Fiona Hall and Vice-President Anni Podimata, were unanimously reelected.

Market feedback on energy efficiency policies available soon

In the coming months, EUFORES will disseminate the **results of a Europe-wide survey on the implementation of national energy efficiency policies** in the EU Member States. The survey looks into the implementation of the policies as they were set in the National Energy Efficiency Action Plans in 2007 and 2011. The survey has been executed by Upper-Austrian Energy Agency, Energy Cities, FEDARENE and eceee. The members of those networks and many other experts have provided valuable feedback on the implementation of energy efficiency policies in their home countries. The results will be available in September 2012. The survey is part of the [Energy Efficiency Watch](#) project of which EUFORES is the coordinator.

Past events

Irish Presidency Briefing

On 10 October 2012, the Irish Energy Attaché of the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU, Michael Goodwin, discussed the political priorities concerning renewable energy sources during the Irish EU Council Presidency. The Irish will take over the presidency on 1 January 2013. This breakfast roundtable was part of our new project Keep-on-Track! in which the further implementation of the RES Directive and the fulfillment of the interim goals are the focal point.

Cypriot Presidency Briefings

Before Cyprus took over the presidency in the Council of the EU on 1 July 2012, EUFORES had organized two meetings with Cypriot Energy Attaché Christos Gogakis. The first meeting focused on priorities of the upcoming Cypriot presidency in energy efficiency and the second one in renewable energy sources. Several Members of the European Parliament attended the meetings and engaged in the discussion with Cypriot Energy Attaché Gogakis. While explaining the specific climatic conditions in Cyprus, Gogakis presented energy efficiency, infrastructure, offshore grid, trainings for building architects and workers as the priorities of Cyprus.

Commissioners Ciolos, Piebalgs and Potocnik at EUFORES MEP breakfast

Dacian Ciolos, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Developments and Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development attended the EUFORES MEP Breakfast Roundtable respectively in April and May 2012. Commissioner Potocnik who manages the portfolio of environment attended the EUFORES Breakfast Roundtable in September 2012. The regular MEP Breakfast Roundtable takes place during the plenary week in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Each roundtable was attended by around 20 MEPs who discussed the impact of Commissioners' portfolios on renewable energy and energy efficiency. This event format is the most successful political format of EUFORES which pushes European policies forward.

Josche Muth, Secretary General European Renewable Energy Council (EREC) at EUFORES MEP breakfast.

Early in July, Josche Muth, Secretary General EREC, has joined the EUFORES MEP group in the European Parliament for a breakfast discussion. He presented a thorough analysis and the position of the European renewables industry on the recently published Communication on Renewables by the European Commission.

EUFORES conference: "Members of national Parliaments: Key drivers for renewable energy and energy efficiency"

A 3-hour panel discussion of parliamentarians from the European Parliament and national parliaments with representatives of the European Commission focused on the implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency policies in the EU. EUFORES organized this conference on 19th June 2012 in the European Commission during the EU Sustainable Energy Week. **Claude Turmes** (MEP) and **Fiona Hall** (MEP) debated with **António Leitao Amaro** (MP Portugal), **Willem-Frederik Schiltz** (MP Belgium), **Cáit Keane** (Senator Ireland), **Marie Donnelly** and **Paula Rey Garcia** from the European Commission.

"Building successful energy policies in the EU is a two-step approach. First, EU institutions have to come up with forward-looking policies. Second, Member States have to implement them on the national level," **Fiona Hall** pointed out. "That is the reason why we need to intensify cooperation with national parliaments so that they can obtain more ownership of EU legislation. This would definitely lead to a more effective implementation of policies that are forged in Brussels," she continued.

Policy Overview

Shortly before the summer break of the European Parliament, the EU institutions made a deal on the Energy Efficiency Directive.

On the 11th of September, the European Parliament voted in favor of the **Energy Efficiency Directive** which was negotiated between the European Parliament, the European Commission and EU Member States on the 13th of June 2012. The new directive includes several binding measures. The two most important changes concern the renovation of public buildings. In total, 3% of all public buildings owned by the central government will have to be renovated compared to the originally planned 3% of all public buildings. Also, the initial proposal of the Commission requiring energy companies to make an annual reduction of their energy sales to industrial and household consumers of 1.5 % was changed. The energy companies will be able to achieve a quarter of the 1.5 % obligation from a number of other measures (ETS, early action, future action, and savings at source). In addition to that, the Member States are obliged to draft a roadmap to make the building sector more energy efficient by 2050. The Member States will present their national programmes for implementation of the new directive in April 2013.

The EU is preparing legislation to address the impact of Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC) regarding biofuels. The draft document, obtained by [Reuters](#), shows a significant shift in sup-

port for biofuels by the EU. One of the draft proposals includes setting 5% barrier to limit the use of crop-based biofuels. This will have an impact on the EU's target of achieving 10% renewables in transport by 2020, which was previously expected to be achieved for a large part through crop-based biofuels. The EU would rather see the 10% target being reached by increasing the use of non-land using biofuels made from household waste and algae. Furthermore, the EU plans to cut all public subsidies to the crop-based biofuel sector after the binding 2020 legislation expires. These proposals have not been officially published yet and they would need to be formally approved by the EU governments before becoming law.

Profiles of EUFORES Board of Presidents and Extended Board

In each of EUFORES newsletters, EUFORES presents some of its parliamentary members. This newsletter presents Anni Podimata, EUFORES Vice-President and two members of EUFORES Extended Board, Paul Rübig and Graham Watson.

	<p>Anni Podimata</p> <p>Anni is a Vice-President of EUFORES and the Vice-President of the European Parliament. Before becoming a Member of the European Parliament, Anni worked at several newspapers as a political correspondent or diplomatic editor and was awarded the Hellenic-Turkish Friendship Award from the Union of Radio and Television Journalists of Turkey. In 2007, Anni was elected a Member of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement to the European Parliament. In July 2011, she was elected Vice President of the European Parliament, a function for which she was reelected in January 2012. She is a full member of the Committee on Economic & Monetary Affairs and the Delegation to the EU-Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee.</p>
	<p>Paul Rübig</p> <p>Paul is an Austrian Member of the European Parliament and a Member of the EUFORES Extended Board. Prior to politics and throughout his political career, Paul was and still is very active the business world. Paul has been a Member of the European Parliament since 1996, within the European People's Party. Amongst others, he is a full member of the Industry, Research and Energy Committee in the European Parliament.</p>



Graham Watson

Graham is a British Member of the European Parliament and a Member of the EUFORES Extended Board. He has been a Member of the European Parliament since 1994 and was the first British Liberal Democrat to be declared elected to the European Parliament. In 2002 until 2004, he was Leader of the ELDR Group. From 2004 until 2009, he acted as Leader of the ALDE Group and in November 2011 he was elected President of the ELDR party. In 2011, he was awarded knighthood.

Please click here to see the EUFORES [Board of Presidents](#) and the entire [Extended Board](#).

What is EUFORES?

[EUFORES](#) is a European cross-party parliamentary network with Members from all major political groups in the European Parliament as well as in the national EU Member States Parliaments. It is non-profit organization founded in 1995 by Members of Parliament and other key actors.

Its core objective is to promote renewable energy sources and energy efficiency and to facilitate discussion between the parliamentarians, experts, relevant decision makers and stakeholders. It organizes numerous events for parliamentarians each year, most of which take place in the European Parliament. The most important event is an annual Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency which is a meeting of parliamentarians from 27 EU Member States. This conference takes place in a different national parliament on a rotation basis.