

	<p>PRESS RELEASE</p> <p>FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:</p> <p>Marc Timmer mtimmer@eufores.org 0032-2-5461948 0032-486-264070 (mob)</p>

Press Release – 07 December 2005

Commission's "Biomass Action Plan" – released today

EUFORES welcomes the intentions of the Commission to work on a Directive on renewable Heating and Cooling in 2006

"I welcome very much the announcement of the Commission in its 'Biomass Action Plan' to work on a Directive on renewable Heating and Cooling in 2006. This is the missing piece of legislation beside directives covering electricity and transport", said MECHTILD ROTHE, Member of the European Parliament and President of EUFORES.

A report on the promotion of heating and cooling from renewable energies initiated by Mechtild Rothe has been recently discussed in the Committee on Industry, Transport and Energy of the European Parliament.

Over 40% of the EU's primary energy consumption is used for heating or cooling in buildings, for domestic hot water supply, for industrial process heat and for heat in the service sector.

Pursuant to the report, a EU target should be set to increase the share of renewable heating and cooling from approximately 10% at present to 25% by 2020 throughout the EU.

Nationally binding targets for 2020, which take into account current differences in the share of renewable heating and cooling in the Member States and the potential of each of the relevant technologies, should ensure that the EU target of 25% is attained.