



EUFORES Press Release 2007

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EU Energy Ministers refuse to deliver binding target for renewables

Mechtild Rothe: "Farewell from the leading role?"

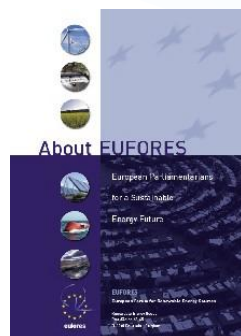
Vice-President of the European Parliament and President of EUFORES **Mechtild Rothe** expressed her deep disappointment about the decision of the Council of Ministers to renounce a binding target for renewables: "This decision doesn't meet their responsibilities. The Ministers missed the great opportunity to assure a sustainable energy supply for Europe's future by an ambitious and binding target. This decision is not only irresponsible with regard to the fight against climate change. It also means a deceleration of investments for one of the most dynamic and innovative industries in the world."

The Energy Ministers had decided to adopt the binding target proposed by the Commission - 20% of renewables in primary energy for 2020 – solely as a non-binding target. The European Parliament had called for binding sectoral targets of 25 % for renewables in order to achieve 25% of renewables in primary energy by 2020.

The Ministers' resolution to set a binding target of 10 % for biofuels in Europe is not sufficient according to President of EUFORES **Rothe**: "We need to abjure conventional energies harmful to climate in the sectors of fuels, heating & cooling and electricity. Therefore we need targets for all three sectors. Once more, the Ministers failed to deliver concrete targets."

Rothe refers to the Spring Council: "I'm hoping particularly that the German government recalls its plans for climate protection and will convince the heads of state and government of the need of a bindingness of the 20% target. In doing so, Europe can keep its leading role and demonstrate that it is assuming responsibility for its citizens."

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