

## Press Release

Brussels, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2008

MECHTILD ROTHE:

### "Renewable Energy – The Energy Source of the 21<sup>st</sup> century!"

The Industry and Energy Committee (ITRE) of the European Parliament voted with an overwhelming majority for the Report on the proposed Framework Directive for Renewable Energy Sources. The Directive foresees to increase the share of renewables in final energy consumption to 20% by 2020.

"The decision paves the way for Renewable Energy to become the energy source of the 21<sup>st</sup> century", said MECHTILD ROTHE, President of EUFORES and Vice-President of the European Parliament, after the voting.

CLAUDE TURMES, Vice-President of EUFORES and Rapporteur of the ITRE Report, added: "This is a great day for renewable energies in Europe!"

With its regular MEP Breakfasts bringing together most of the key MEPs in the field of Renewable Energy, EUFORES could successfully support the work of Rapporteur CLAUDE TURMES who was responsible for writing the report. After weeks of negotiations among the Parliament's political groups, the over 1,400 amendments to the Turmes report were condensed into 33 compromise amendments.

The report supports the 20% goal and asks for binding interim targets for Member States up to 2020. "That is necessary to guarantee national action before 2020", said TURMES. The report also demands penalties for Member States that do not fulfil their objectives.

ROTHE and TURMES welcomed that the ITRE Committee clearly voted against an EU-wide mandatory certificate trading scheme for renewable energy. This would have endangered and most likely destroyed successful national support schemes, such as feed-in systems. The report by the ITRE Committee on the other hand allows more flexibility as for example through joint renewables projects.

"In the area of Biofuels a good compromise has been found to combine social as well as ecological sustainability criteria with more energy security", ROTHE continued. The Committee with its report holds on to the binding 10% target, but introduces a review for 2014. It also stresses that the 10% goal does not only refer to Biofuels, but to all Renewable Energy Sources in the transport sector. "Electricity and Hydrogen from Renewable Sources and so-called 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Biofuels count as well towards the transport target", clarified TURMES.

#### About EUFORES

EUFORES - the European Forum for Renewable Energy Sources - is a European parliamentary network and an independent Non-Profit Organization aimed at promoting renewable energy in Europe.

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