



**“NER300 – geothermal expected more”**

**Brussels, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010.** The EU’s Climate Change Committee of the Council (CCC) reached an agreement last week on implementing the “New Entrants Reserve 300”. The EGEC generally welcomes the final agreement but regrets the potential of geothermal low temperature reservoir in Eastern and Central Europe is another time forgotten.

The Council’s Climate Change Committee (CCC) adopted last week (Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of February) a draft decision on how to allocate the 300 million EU emission allowances (EUAs) that are set aside from the New Entrants Reserve (NER300) of the ETS to help finance CCS and innovative renewable energy projects.

EGEC appreciates this funding proposes to co-finance several EGS projects. This support is crucial to expand this technology. The objective of the initiative would be the proliferation of the technology to different geological situations and to other Member States.

A major effort to introduce EGS will create a substantial base-load electric power production, as geothermal energy is available independent from the time of day or year, of climate, weather, etc. A steady increase in geothermal power production is expected in all EU countries.

A definition of EGS is crucially needed in order to implement this agreement. The Technology Platform on Geothermal electricity will come with a proposal in the next weeks.

But EGEC and the national geothermal associations from Bulgaria, FYR of Macedonia, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Romania and Spain deplore a sub-category on geothermal low temperature power production has been refused by the EC, although this idea was supported by Denmark, Italy and Austria.

Binary plant schemes/installations based on Low Enthalpy resources are raising more and more interest in Europe. These innovative geothermal power plants will allow the production of electricity using low thermal water temperatures of the order of 100 °C or lower (i.e. waters above ca. 80-90 degrees C).

The technology is well mastered for medium temperature (120- 170°C), but the development of the technology for low temperature (lower than 100-110°C) is still at the demonstration stage. First small pilot/small scale installations on fields with temperature lower than 110°C have been working in Austria and Germany, but there is a beginning of development.

Central and Eastern European Countries beneficiate from a huge potential for low temperature geothermal development.

**We regret that another time this region and this technology have been forgotten, and we ask the European Authorities to find ways how to help these countries in applying this geothermal technology, important for the security of their energy supply !**

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