

# Press Release

Brussels, 16 May 2012

## **First ever Renewable Heating and Cooling Week in the EP: Renewable Heating & Cooling must receive more attention and funding**

Renewable Heating and Cooling technologies took centre stage as their real potential was explored during the 1st Renewable Heating and Cooling Week in the European Parliament (14-16 May 2012).

The event week, including a 100m<sup>2</sup> exhibition of renewable heating and cooling technologies as well as a high-level policy debate, was organised by the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating & Cooling (RHC-Platform) in collaboration with MEP Béla Glattfelder from the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) of the European Parliament.

Gerhard Stryi-Hipp, President of the RHC-Platform stated: *"Heating and cooling must become an important part of the Strategic Energy Technology (SET)-Plan and renewable energy technology should be kept at the heart of approaches in order to decarbonise the EU's heating and cooling supply by substantially increasing the relevant budget for the future R&D program of the European Union: Horizon 2020."*

This conclusion is the result of a policy debate which took place yesterday in the European Parliament in Brussels, gathering 80 experts representing EU Institutions and members of the RHC-Platform. Experts are convinced that biomass, geothermal and solar thermal energy together with aerothermal can cover 100% of Europe's heating and cooling demand before the year 2050, as outlined in the RHC-Platform's *Common Vision* publication. To realise this huge potential, the RHC-Platform advocates also more support for the development of smart thermal grids and further investments in enabling R&D e.g., for thermal energy storage.

Renewable energy sources for heating and cooling shall also prove their potential through the European Initiative on Smart Cities and Communities. City smartness essentially stands for integrating renewable energy supply, energy efficiency and CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in every policy decision made at the local level. In this framework, participants of the event and the RHC-Platform recommended the European Commission to dedicate more resources to renewable heating and cooling technologies in the context of Smart Cities initiative within the SET Plan.

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