

Conference Opening
Dr. Christian Hey, Chair EEAC Energy Working Group

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very happy to welcome you here on behalf of the organising EEAC Energy Working Group.

We knew already 16 months ago, that “energy efficiency” is a strategic issue. But we did not anticipate that it made such a carrier as a top priority on the EU agenda.

Let me recall shortly some events of the last year:

- 19th October, 2006 “Action plan for Energy Efficiency – with suggesting a 20% target, which effectively means an acceleration of energy efficiency by a factor 3 over past trends and a long list of measures. This was the reference document also for our preps to this conference and the EEAC Statement
- 30th October 2006 the Stern Report showed the tremendous cost of non-action and the considerable benefits from effective climate mitigation: it helped to convert main stream policy thinking in the EU from a more defensive to determined Activism and leadership. Early 2007 the 4th IPCC – Report confirmed and strengthened this message.
- .10th January 2007: The Commission launched its energy package with targets and timetables for climate change and renewables;
- 8th of March 2007 Haeds of State widely endorsed this green energy and climate package

And in the forthcoming months a series of new proposals on the future of ETS, on CO2-Reduction of Cars on the Maesures under the Eco-design Directive etc. are pending:

The efficiency agenda is also crucial in the national context. In July this year we had our national energy summit in Germany and one of the key issues was the future of nuclear energy. Preparatory studies had a clear message: if the EU target on energy efficiency is achieved, Germany will manage to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 40% while phasing out nuclear energy supply . It will not, if the efficiency only improves by 2% per year! That is the type of challenge and opportunities we are facing with the energy eff agenda.

The very reason behind is, that with energy efficiency we achieve security of supply, innovation and competitiveness as well as climate mitigation at the same time. Its up to the speakers of this morning to illustrate this potential for a winning game – not only for the energy debate – but also for Europe. Credible homework is the very basis for Europes global leadership aspirations on Climate Change and might bring Europe closer together.

However as usual – there is a long way to go from talk to action. To have understood something and to do it – is not the same. Therefore we take stock in the afternoon on progress, on barriers, shortcomings and hopes in the different action fields. And we will discuss this in our final panel.

Last not least – many thanks to the hosts of this conference for the perfect organisation and the careful choice of this wonderful location and also to a very committed working group. We managed to organize this conference based on decentralized and shared responsibility for the

invitation of speakers and workshop organisation. And it the network-type of organisation of this conference worked!

I wish you excellent presentations and inspiring discussions. And I would love, if EEAC could help to strengthen the momentum of the forthcoming decisions on energy efficiency issues.

Thank you.