



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A renewables based power sector: competitive, secure and sustainable

One of the first events of the EUSEW (European Sustainable Energy Week) on 22 March 2010 was a workshop organised by EEAC in cooperation with the EESC (European Economic and Social Committee) on “**Scenarios and Policies for Decarbonisation**”. Close to 100 participants attended the workshop.

A key conclusion from the workshop is, that renewable sources in Europe have the potential to provide most if not all the electricity needed. A renewables based electricity system can be achieved by 2050 at competitive costs while respecting biodiversity and while ensuring that the electricity demand is met at all times. The scenarios illustrate, that electricity from renewable sources may become the sustainable solution to our electricity system.

The EEAC energy working group chairman, Dr. Christian Hey (SRU, German Advisory Council on the Environment), therefore suggests, that the European Commission should seriously consider one scenario relying fully on RES in its planned 2050 Road Map. An alternative to decarbonisation with controversial technologies such as nuclear and CCS is conceivable and hence should become part of the portfolio for policy choice. The Commission should also compare such an option on the basis of sustainability criteria (including safety, long term storage and resource constraints, overall system cost, GHG-lifecycle assessment of different technologies) to other options.

The EEAC network is a unique collaboration between the councils set up by European governments to provide independent and scientifically based advice on the environment and sustainable development. The network is a powerful tool for sharing information and experience across Europe.

Co-operation between advisory councils under the EEAC network started in 1993. More than 30 councils from 16 European countries with around 400 key senior actors from academia, civil society organisations and the private sector now participate in the network.

The SRU (German Advisory Council on the Environment), co-organiser of this workshop, is one of the members.

Please find more information and workshop presentations on: www.eeac-net.org

This workshop is also part of the European Sustainable Energy week: www.eusew.eu