



NEWS RELEASE

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**2004 EUROPEAN WIND ENERGY CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION:
OVER 4200 PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED THE LARGEST WIND INDUSTRY EVENT**

'WIND ENERGY IS NOW WORLD-SCALE'

Brussels, 30th November 2004 — Over 4200 participants from 44 countries have attended the four-day 2004 European Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition in London. 255 companies have exhibited, 220 speakers and chairmen have presented in 40 scientific, technical, business and policy sessions alongside 300 poster presentations.

"With over 4200 participants, 2004 EWEC has been the largest-ever conference of the wind industry", said UK Minister of Energy Mike O'Brien.

" We demonstrated that wind energy is no longer a niche concern, but it is a central driver of European technological development and industrial know-how. The UK is one example of this new momentum: as the UK Secretary of State said in the opening session, by 2010 wind power would be powering one in six UK households. Wind energy has come of age and is now world-scale", said Professor Arthouros Zervos, President of EWEA, at the closing of the conference.

"Europe is the world leader in wind energy, a technology that is vital to help address the issues of security of supply, oil and gas price instability, sustainable development, climate change, provide economic growth, technological progress and create employment and exports. In two decades, Europe will be importing 70% of its energy, up from 50% today. Europe faces an energy crunch, and wind power can help deliver a solution", said Zervos.

During the closing session, the Poul La Cour prize of the European Wind Energy Association was given to Esteban Morrás, CEO of Spanish company EHN for his outstanding and innovative contribution to the development of the sector.

In his speech, Morrás said that: *"We are very lucky to be working in an activity that contributes towards achieving a world that is more balanced in social terms and more sustainable in environmental terms."*

Regarding the European wind energy sector, he emphasised that *"we should improve our competitiveness and reaffirm our leadership vis-à-vis other regions of the world, through investment in R&D, a reduction in the cost of the energy produced, increasing the size of our companies and strengthening our territorial presence"*.

"We now welcome you all at the 2006 EWEC which will be held in Athens, Greece", said Arthouros Zervos in his closing address (1).

Notes to Editors:

(1) 2006 EWEC will be held in Athens, Greece, from 27th February - 2nd March 2006.
