



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Moyennant une législation Européenne ambitieuse, l'énergie éolienne bénéficiera largement à l'Europe.

“De toutes les énergies renouvelables, l'éolien est celle qui a fourni les résultats les plus prometteurs jusqu'ici, avec 57 GW de puissance totale installée dans l'Union Européenne fin 2007. Pour s'assurer que cette tendance continue, nous devons disposer d'un cadre législatif européen fiable et favorable” a déclaré Andris Piebalgs, commissaire européen à l'énergie, lors de la session d'ouverture de la Conférence Européenne de l'Énergie Éolienne (EWEC) aujourd'hui à Bruxelles. Le commissaire européen – Président de la Conférence EWEC 2008 – a également souligné le besoin d'envisager les solutions renouvelables après 2020, et au-delà.

Une adoption et une exécution rapide de la Directive pour la promotion des Energies Renouvelables proposée par la Commission Européenne est essentielle pour assurer un futur énergétique stable, durable et concurrentiel en Europe, ont appris les membres de la conférence ce matin. Les décideurs au niveau national et européen ont souligné l'importance d'un cadre législatif stable et flexible. Ils ont décrit leur vision de la législation européenne et la façon dont elle permettra l'émergence d'une nouvelle génération d'approvisionnement énergétique.

La Directive pour la promotion des Energies Renouvelables proposée par la Commission Européenne a été généralement bien reçue par le secteur de l'énergie éolienne, bien que certaines améliorations pourraient être introduites par le Parlement Européen et les Etats Membres. En outre, il faut encore établir sans ambiguïté que les Etats Membres sont légalement autorisés à garder le contrôle de leurs mécanismes nationaux. Les orateurs de la session d'ouverture d'EWEC ont gardé un ton positif durant la présentation de leurs vues sur la façon dont une telle législation peut aider à atteindre l'objectif contraignant de 20% de production d'énergie renouvelable dans le mix énergétique européen d'ici 2020.

**Andris Piebalgs**, commissaire européen à l'énergie, a ouvert l'événement comme président de la Conférence en soulignant la volonté du Conseil Européen d'arriver à un accord rapide sur la Directive durant la présidence française du deuxième semestre de 2008.

**Britta Thomsen**, Membre du Parlement Européen, a déclaré que le Parlement Européen souhaitait voir certains éléments importants inclus dans la Directive.

« Des consignes plus claires sont nécessaires pour l'élaboration des plans d'action nationaux, et une liste d'éléments supplémentaires devrait être incluse. La Commission Européenne doit de plus pouvoir suivre les plans d'action et disposer de mécanismes de mise en vigueur de façon à pouvoir réagir si les Pays Membres n'atteignent pas leurs objectifs. » Mme Thomsen a également souligné l'importance de systèmes de soutien nationaux efficaces, et a demandé de disposer d'objectifs sectoriels pour l'électricité, le chauffage et refroidissement, et le transport au niveau national.

Andrej Vizjak, Ministre de l'Economie en Slovénie, pays assurant la présidence actuelle de l'UE, a déclaré qu'un investissement plus important dans l'éolien est nécessaire « pour combler le fossé entre les objectifs européens et la réalité d'aujourd'hui ». De nos jours, 80% des subsides énergétiques sont consacrés aux combustibles traditionnels et à l'énergie nucléaire, et seulement 20% vont aux énergies renouvelables.

Le temps disponible pour agir et atteindre ces objectifs pour s'attaquer au changement climatique est réduit, a affirmé Paul Magnette, Ministre Fédéral de l'Énergie et du Climat en Belgique, qui a ajouté que « la chance d'agir est en train de passer. Une étape-clé pour accroître et améliorer la part d'énergie éolienne dans le mix énergétique serait de se concentrer sur l'augmentation de l'effort de recherche ».

Manuel Pinho, Ministre portugais de l'Economie et de l'Innovation a prévenu que si des mesures rapides n'étaient pas prises pour une meilleure utilisation des énergies renouvelables, l'UE passerait de 55% à 66% d'importation énergétique en 2030, rendant l'économie toujours plus dépendante de pays tiers. Il a présenté le mix énergétique portugais, une combinaison d'hydroélectricité et d'éolien, comme une solution idéale pour fournir de l'électricité indigène de façon flexible et à des prix concurrentiels.

Arthouros Zervos, Président d'EWEA, a présenté le nouveau rapport de l'association sur la situation actuelle de l'énergie éolienne *Pure Power : wind energy scenarios up to 2030*. Le rapport présente les voies de développement de l'énergie éolienne aux horizons 2010, 2020 et 2030, avec une étude des effets probables sur la fourniture d'électricité, les émissions de gaz à effet de serre et l'économie européenne.

« Il n'y a pas de contradiction entre croissance économique et déploiement à grande échelle de l'énergie éolienne, a-t-il déclaré, bien au contraire. L'énergie éolienne est une ressource précieuse qui amène de nombreux avantages à notre société. Elle revitalise l'économie, crée de nouveaux emplois, réduit la dépendance européenne par rapport aux énergies fossiles et rend les marchés de l'électricité plus performants, ce dont on a désespérément besoin. »

L'énergie éolienne satisfait actuellement 3,7% de la demande européenne en électricité. *Pure Power* démontre que l'objectif de la Commission d'accroître cette part à 12 % pour 2020, est certainement réalisable. En 2007, la puissance éolienne installée a augmenté de 8,5 GW. Or, en moyenne, la puissance installée doit augmenter de 9,5 GW par an pendant les 13 prochaines années pour atteindre 180 GW et couvrir 12 à 14% de la demande en électricité en 2020.

180 GW d'éolien en 2020 produiraient 477 TWh, dont 133TWh offshore. Cela permettrait de fournir la demande de 107 millions de ménages européens en moyenne. A ce niveau, l'énergie éolienne représenterait 18,1% de la capacité électrique totale installée en UE, ce qui représente plus de la moitié de la contribution en énergie renouvelable nécessaire pour atteindre l'objectif contraignant. Avec une législation appropriée, de vrais avantages – économiques et environnementaux – peuvent être apportés par l'énergie éolienne à toute l'Europe.

La séance d'ouverture a été suivie par une conférence de presse où les ministres ont discuté des étapes nécessaires pour assurer que l'Europe atteigne les objectifs de 2020 et continue à développer les énergies renouvelables et l'éolien à l'avenir.

**Christian Kjaer**, Directeur Général d'EWEA, a conclu la conférence de presse en disant : « nous avons vu que si la législation adéquate est mise en place d'ici peu, l'Europe peut arriver à un scénario de fourniture énergétique bien supérieur à la situation 'business-as-usual', et offrir ainsi une plus grande indépendance énergétique, de l'énergie moins chère, des risques atténués de fluctuation des prix des combustibles, une meilleure concurrence et plus d'exportations de technologies. »

Plus de 3000 personnes sont présentes à EWEC, qui a lieu pendant quatre jours jusqu'au 3 avril. Les conférences sont accompagnées d'[une exposition](#) avec plus de 200 entreprises. D'autres sessions couvrent les politiques nationales, l'intégration au réseau électrique, l'éolien offshore et le financement de projets. Les 2 et 3 avril, un [forum sur la finance de l'éolien](#) se tiendra pour la première fois. Une autre première est [le salon de l'emploi](#) du 2 avril qui mettra en contact les employeurs et employés potentiels du secteur.

[Pour plus d'informations sur EWEC](#)



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### Global wind installations pass 100 GW, and are predicted to rise to 240 GW by 2012

Wind energy is booming worldwide. Following another record year in 2007 with over 20 GW of new wind capacity, and additional installations at the beginning of 2008, the global wind market has now passed 100 GW. On the second day of the European Wind Energy Conference (EWEC) in Brussels, the opportunities and challenges facing the world's leading wind energy markets, plus the huge potential for the future, were discussed.

Steve Sawyer, Chief Executive of the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), opened the session by presenting GWEC's new publication, *Global Wind Energy Report 2007*, which provides an overview of the situation worldwide and its impressive recent expansion.

"Due above all to the stronger than anticipated growth in the US and China in recent years, and China's emerging manufacturers, which are helping ease global supply, there has been an unexpectedly strong increase in wind deployment all round the world," he explained. "As a result, GWEC now foresees the global wind power market growing by over 155% to reach 240 GW of total installed capacity by 2012".

Birger T Madsen, from BTM Consult, explained that his company forecasts 140,000 MW of annual installations over the next thirteen years, which will give a cumulative installed capacity of nearly 1 million MW (1,000 GW) by 2020.

"1,000 GW of capacity will enable wind power to provide 7-8% of the world's electricity demand by 2020," he added.

There are many markets worldwide whose development will help ensure this wind energy expansion. Senior Energy Specialist from the World Bank, Søren Krohn, looked at some of those with the most potential. Mexico is a "fully developed market for independent power producers", but has transmission issues and supply bottlenecks to overcome. Turkey has a "feed-in tariff system, which gives access to a wholesale market". Meanwhile in Morocco "there is a strong government commitment to wind energy, with a target of 1,000 MW of installed capacity by 2012, up from the current total of 124 MW".

One country which has already started installing significant amounts of wind energy is the US, which in 2007 added a record 5.2 GW of capacity to reach 16.8 GW. This accounted for about 30% of the country's new power-producing capacity in 2007. In Europe, wind energy made up 40% of new energy installations last year.

Rob Gramlich, from the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), presented a new draft report, entitled *20% wind vision - a collaborative technical report*. The document shows that it is technically and economically possible for 20% of US electricity to come from wind by 2030, up from just over 1% today.

Rob Gramlich stated that “we need to install over 16 GW annually in order to reach the 300 GW by 2030 that will give us the 20% of electricity from wind. We need to change people’s perceptions so that they see that benefits such as jobs and a stronger economy are closely linked to our choice of power-generating technology.”

While the North American wind industry is booming, South America has been slower taking off. Despite its vast natural resources, there is only 530 MW of wind capacity currently installed there. Christian Grütte from Leonardo Venablers in Spain presented the South American wind market. He outlined the reasons for the continent’s slow start, citing political instability, lack of attractive incentives, limited grid access and restricted turbine supply as the major barriers.

He concluded that “South America has a potential wind energy capacity of more than 300 GW. In the coming years, governments should start introducing the reliable investor incentives and objectives the region’s industry needs, in order to begin to fulfil this potential”.

One of the South American countries with the best wind resources is Chile. Cristobal Garcia-Huidobro from Centinel presented the development of wind energy in Chile. Initially dependent on gas from Argentina, the country was left stranded when its neighbour cut off supplies in 2004. This eventually led to discussions on a renewable energy law, which came into force in March 2007. The law obliges generators with over 200 MW of installed capacity to meet a 10% renewables target.

Chile’s first ever wind farm began operations in December 2007. Currently at just 18 MW, an additional 70 MW should come on line soon, and a second wind farm project is under development.

The chairman of the session, Peter Brun from Vestas, concluded by underlining, as all the speakers had done, the strong worldwide potential of wind energy.

He said, “Globally, we can see strong market trends, but there are still a lot of unclear areas and obstacles. The trends alone are not enough. We need policy stability and transmission planning. In this way, we can show policy-makers that wind is not a niche or ‘alternative’ form of energy, but a mainstream source of power.”

In a later session, various awards were presented. Four Poster Awards went to René Cattin, Florian Bertsch, Simon Watson and Gabriele Michalke for their innovative and interesting designs.

The Scientific Award was presented to Stig Oye for his outstanding work in wind energy technology. The Excellent Young Wind Doctor award, given for the first time at this year’s EWEC, aims to bring recognition to recently graduated PhD students. It was won by Dr. Jason M. Jonkman and Dr. Tonis Sant.

[For more information on EWEC, please click here.](#)



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### Tens of thousands of high skill jobs to be filled in wind energy

Tens of thousands of high skill jobs need to be filled to continue the high growth rates of the global market for wind energy technology. The biggest need is for technical profiles. For the first time at the European Wind Energy Conference (EWEC) today, the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) held a specialised job fair, bringing 300 potential employees and 30 of the sector's leading companies together within the professional framework of EWEC.

“A very large part of our lives is spent at work and people are paying more and more attention to the products and services they help produce. The wind energy business needs to fill tens of thousands of jobs over the coming years to sustain the high growth” said Christian Kjaer, EWEA's Chief Executive. “Above all, Europe needs to educate far more technical staff and engineers to maintain its global leadership position in wind energy,” he continued.

The wind energy sector employs thousands of people in Germany, Denmark and Spain - all pioneering countries in wind energy - where it has given local economies a significant boost. In Spain, a total of 35,000 jobs related to wind have been created, and 80,000 in Germany - of which 28,000 come from the machinery industry alone. There are 21,600 jobs of this nature in Denmark.<sup>1</sup> EWEA uses a tentative figure of 150,000 wind energy-related jobs in the EU altogether. According to the EC-funded MITRE project report, this could more than double by 2020, providing 368,000 new jobs in Europe.

The most sought-after profiles are in areas such as electrical or mechanical engineering, aerodynamics, project development, installation, and operations and maintenance. However, the rapid growth rate of the companies in the wind energy sector also requires a broad range of managerial profiles.

Visitors to the job fair were all very enthusiastic about wind energy and the career paths it offers. Fabrice Schurmans from Belgium, a bio-engineering student, said, “Renewable energies - and wind energy in particular - can help European energy independence. Wind energy is becoming ever more important, so I want to get involved now.” Patricia Sánchez from Spain, studying for a Master's in Fluid Mechanics, agreed. “Wind energy is a sector which is going to grow and grow - it offers great employment opportunities.”

**The 30 organisations that participated in the job fair included:** 3E - Airtricity - Alstom - Clipper Windpower - Colruyt - Electrabel - Electrawinds NV - Enercon - Gamesa - GL Group - Harakosan Europe B.V - ISET - LM Glasfiber - Mecal - Nuon-WEOM - Pauwels International NV - Proven Energy - REpower Systems AG - Risø DTU - SAMTECH - Siemens - Wind Power A/S - SINTEF Energy Research - Smulders - Valorem and Valréa SAS - Wind Prospect Group - WindVision - Winwind Oy

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<sup>1</sup> Spain - AEE, 2006; Germany - BMU, 2006/VDMA, 2007; Denmark - DWEA, 2006

[For more information on EWEC 2008, please click here](#)



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### With increased research, renewable energy can supply more than 20% of Europe's energy demand

Delegates at the closing session of the European Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition (EWEC) today were reminded of the benefits that wind energy can bring. Provided a stable legal framework is put rapidly into place at European level, wind energy will bring security of energy supply, a stronger economy and a boost to employment, as well as helping tackle climate change. Speakers at the session focused on countries and regions which have already gone beyond the EU ambition level for wind power and other renewables.

Key-note speaker **Janez Potočnik**, EU Commissioner for Science and Research, introduced the session by highlighting the crucial role that research will play in going beyond the ambitious 20% target.

"Wind energy is a remarkable European success story. Europe is a global leader in the sector thanks to the skill of the research sector," said Commissioner Potočnik.

"But it is clear that we need more than a "business-as-usual" approach. The current mechanisms and models of cooperation for wind energy are insufficient to meet the challenges faced by the EU energy policy. By encouraging European Industrial Initiatives, we will strengthen energy research and innovation undertaken by industry and its partners. So a European Wind Industrial Initiative is a timely opportunity", said Commissioner Potočnik, referring to the European Commission's Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan), which was adopted by the EU Council at the end of February 2008. A further initiative for research is the European Wind Energy Technology Platform (TPWind), whose Strategic Research Agenda, which will be released later this year, highlights the sector's research priorities.

Commissioner Potočnik was followed by representatives of some of the best-performing European areas for wind energy. Schleswig-Holstein in Germany gets over 30% of its electricity from wind. **Dietrich Austermann**, regional Minister of Science, Economic Affairs and Transport, spoke of the 7,000 jobs that have been created in the region through the use of wind power, the €3 billion that has been invested in the sector and the business opportunities created.

"Wind energy has been a real business success for the region. Some of the leading wind plant manufacturers and service providers have relocated there," he explained.

The correlation between wind energy and a strong economy can also be seen in Denmark. The country is the world's third most competitive economy according to the World Economic forum, and 21% of its electricity comes from wind energy.

**Anne Højer Simonsen**, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Climate and Energy, Denmark, said, "The Danish example shows that there is no contradiction between a competitive economy and large amounts of wind power. Since 1980, Denmark's economy has grown 75%. We are aiming to have 30% of our electricity coming from wind energy by 2025."

**Ricardo González Mantero**, Director of Energy and Mining, EREN, Spain looked at the Castilla y León region of Spain, which gets half of its electricity from wind power. He discussed the policy

tools that have helped the renewables development (including the wind energy plan of 1999) and the heavy investment in wind in the last decade. He then outlined the essential elements for a significant energy contribution from renewables and wind energy.

“To enable a strong wind energy share, the most important things are dialogue, the exchange of knowledge and experience, favourable resources and political and public commitment”, he concluded.

At EWEC this year there were a record 6,000 participants from 82 different countries. EWEC 2008 drew to a close this afternoon, as EU Commissioner for Science and Research Janez Potočnik awarded the wind energy sector’s most prestigious prize – the Poul la Cour prize - to Jos Beurskens from the Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands (ECN), for his outstanding achievements and many years’ service in the field of wind energy. Afterwards, Belgium handed over the role as host of EWEC to France, where next year’s conference will be held, in Marseille, on 16-19 March 2009.

**Jean-Louis BAL**, Director for Renewable Energy at the French Agency for Energy and Environment (ADEME) said, "ADEME is delighted that the European wind industry has selected France for its annual conference in 2009. This prestigious event will focus attention on the abundant, yet largely untapped, wind energy potential in France and facilitate a discussion on the main barriers and challenges to the mainstream exploitation of this indigenous resource. The EWEC 2009 event will also help deliver sustainable solutions to energy markets across Europe."

**Arthorous Zervos**, EWEA President, concluded that “The four days of discussions and presentations at EWEC 2008 have reinforced the importance of wind energy as a potent energy and climate solution for Europe and the rest of the world. We have seen exactly how crucial it is that the European Commission’s proposed Renewable Energy Directive is effectively and quickly adopted and implemented. In this way, Europe will benefit from all wind energy has to offer, and witness the coming of a new generation of energy supply.”

[For more information on EWEC 2008 please click here](#)  
[To find out about EWEC 2009 please click here](#)  
[TPWind website](#)