



## EUFORES Press Release

Brussels/ Strasbourg, 15 June 2006 -  
EU 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research (FP7)

### **Mechtild Rothe: "Two thirds of energy research budgets for renewable energy sources and energy efficiency"**

"Today, the European Parliament gave a clear commitment for Europe's role as promoter and global market leader in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency. I now expect that the European Commission follows this vote!" said **Mechtild Rothe** - Member of the European Parliament and President of EUFORES - after today's plenary vote on the EU 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research.

**Claude Turmes**, Member of the European Parliament and Vice-President of EUFORES, agrees: "We strongly welcome Parliament's support for our proposal to give two-thirds of the budget for non-nuclear energy to renewables and energy efficiency, this is Euro 450 million more than the Commission proposes. These clean technologies are already proven and effective at addressing the problems of climate change and meeting our future energy needs."

**Mechtild Rothe** added: "This decision opens great opportunities for Europe. Europe's new and innovative high tech industry is strengthened and many new jobs are going to be created. Furthermore, the promotion of these indigenous energy sources guarantees and supports Europe's competitiveness on global markets. Already now, Europe's industry suffers from the heavy burden of high and more increasing energy prices. The near and unavoidable end of fossil resources – including uranium – will even worsen this situation in the coming years. In contrast, renewable energy technologies developed rapidly in the last years and showed great progress concerning technical efficiency and the reduction of costs. Renewable energy sources only need technology to deliver services – the resources themselves (with exception of biomass) are for free. In order to reach a high share of renewable energy in the overall energy mix, further research and development efforts concerning existing and new renewable energy technologies as well as storage technologies are required. Clear and explicit decisions like the one today are essential for such development efforts and for the stability of long-term research investments."

"This priority for the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency research is necessary not only for ecological and economic reasons, but also to counter the existing massive subsidies for fossil and nuclear energy", energy expert **Mechtild Rothe** also underlined.

#### **Background:**

An amendment (to the draft report on FP7) of the PSE Group in the European Parliament asked for a dedication of about two thirds of the non-nuclear energy research budget (2.385 Billion Euro) to renewable energy and energy efficiency research. This means that about 1.6 Billion Euro will go to that sector until 2013. In the same period about 4 Billion Euro will be spent for nuclear energy. The amendment has been accepted by the plenary of the European Parliament with a vast majority.

For background information about EUFORES please download our brand new brochure under [www.eufores.org](http://www.eufores.org).



**For further information please contact:**  
**EUFORES - European Forum for Renewable Energy Sources**  
**Renewable Energy House, Rue d'Arlon 63-65, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium**  
**Tel. Eufores: +32(2)5461948, Fax: +32(2)5461934**  
**E-mail: [eufores@eufores.org](mailto:eufores@eufores.org), [www.eufores.org](http://www.eufores.org)**