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Publication | 26.09.2007

Renewable energy in the EU

European Parliament sends a strong message in favour of renewables

There is now a clear and loud message towards the European Commission on how the forthcoming EU legislation on renewables -due to be adopted by the Commission on 5 December 2007 - should look like. The **European Parliament's vote of Tuesday enables the European Commission to come up with a strong proposal guaranteeing that renewable energies will be exploited**. In addition, the Greens managed to get rid of nuclear in the final text.

The agrofuels issue was -and will continue to be- the most controversial issue. The Greens' amendment to get a full impact assessment before setting and implementing a possible 10% target for agrofuels was unfortunaltely defeated. Therefore **the report remains unchanged and supports the goal of a 10% share for agrofuels in transport provided that "it can be proved that such fuels are produced in a sustainable way".**

While the European Parliament is recalling its (Greens) position of having **25% of renewable energies by 2020 and a roadmap for achieving a 50% share by 2040**, the final report however backed up the European Council's position to get a mandatory target of 20% of renewables to be shared amongst Member States. The report calls also for a sectoral approach so that **we can have at least 32% of electricity made from renewables in 2020, similarly to double the share of renewables for the production of heat and coo**l (e.g air-conditioning).

The **national Renewables Action Plans (RAP) should include binding sectoral targets and must be assessed by the Commission** (and if not in line with the EU overall target - rejected) . The report also calls on the Commission to include a midterm target in order to take action if a Member State is not fulfilling its obligations.

The **Greens also managed to have supports for concentrating solar power**, an implementation programme for the large scale deployment of passive and net positive houses, a **call for a widespread adoption by Member States of the solar obligation for the renovation of old buildings and for new buildings** (as it is already the case in Israel or Barcelona for instance) etc...

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