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Press release | 28.02.2011

EU energy council

Lack of direction in EU energy policy underlined by energy ministers

Commenting on the council of EU energy ministers today, Green energy spokesperson **Claude Turmes** said:

"Energy ministers have today underlined the directionless nature of EU energy policy, following on from the precedent set by EU leaders at the energy summit earlier this month. What should have been an important strategic moment in EU energy policy - deciding clear priorities for the next 5 years - has been largely missed.

"Energy ministers clearly have their heads in the sand as regards the looming oil crisis, as confirmed both by the lack of any substantial proposals to deal with the crisis and the prevarication on renewables and energy efficiency.

"A meaningful and binding policy on energy savings and efficiency has been kicked to the long grass. Given that a true commitment to energy efficiency is essential if the EU to meet its energy security and climate goals, this is particularly disappointing.

"Energy ministers have also sought to play down the crucial role of renewable energy as part of the EU's energy mix over the coming years (1). The conclusions are an unfocused mishmash of calls for investments in often conflicting infrastructure priorities, with electricity grid investments alongside investments in gas, oil and carbon capture and storage infrastructure. However, fortunately the attack of large energy utilities on national renewable energy support schemes seems to have been largely rebuffed."

(1) In 2009, renewable energy investments represented 62% of all power sector investments in the EU27 and this proportion will have to go up if the EU is to reach its binding target for a 20% renewable energy sources in the overall energy mix.

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Claude Turmes

Member

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