



Brussels, 25 February 2015

The EU Energy Union: a step forward for sustainable heating and cooling

Euroheat & Power is very pleased to see a re-energising of the EU energy debate following the publication of the European Commission Communication on the “Framework strategy for a resilient Energy Union with a forward-looking climate change policy”¹ on 25 February 2015.

In particular, Euroheat & Power welcomes an Energy Union approach which recognises the crucial role of sustainable space heating and cooling in reducing the EU's energy import bills, reinforcing energy security and cutting energy costs for households and businesses

In Europe, space heating is the largest single source of energy demand and Europeans rely overwhelmingly on the direct combustion of imported fossil fuels to generate the thermal comfort they need. According to the Communication, the upcoming Commission heating strategy is expected to set out measures aimed at better exploiting the huge efficiency gains from District Heating and Cooling and facilitating investment in the heating sector.

Moreover, Euroheat & Power strongly supports the EU's goals in becoming the world leader in renewable energy, based on research, innovation and competitiveness, and in promoting Europe's strategic leadership in renewable technology areas. A strong domestic market based clear and effective regulatory framework is a vital pre-condition for the success of European clean energy companies in exporting their technology and know-how to energy-hungry markets around the world.

Euroheat & Power's Managing Director Paul Voss said: “The publication of the Energy Union is a clear and very welcome statement of intent from the new European Commission. As the text clearly underlines, the heating and cooling sector in general and District Heating in particular can and must play a key role in delivering what the European energy transition so obviously requires. We eagerly look forward to starting work on putting the principles of the Energy Union in practice.”

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Notes

1. http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/energy-union/docs/energyunion_en.pdf
2. *Between 25-27 February 2015, the European Commission hosts the high level conference “Heating and Cooling in the European Energy Transition”, <http://heating-and-cooling-in-europe.eu/>*