



Towards the Centre

# Foreword



Frédéric Hug  
Euroheat & Power President

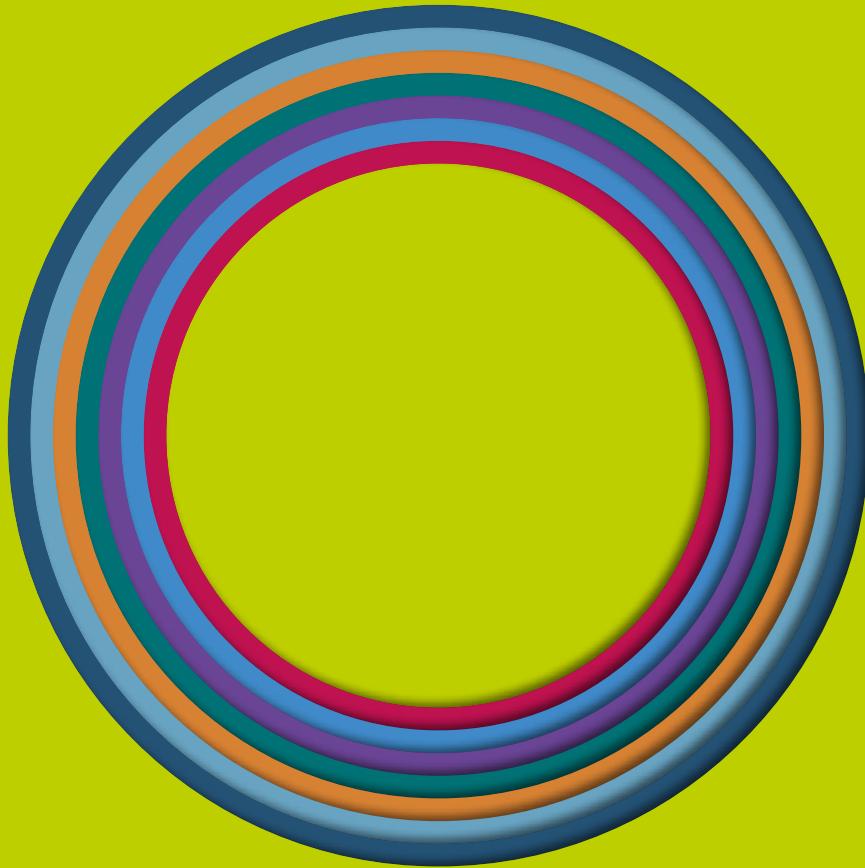
Dear friends and colleagues,

Nothing is more rewarding and stimulating than reaching one's goals, especially doing so together with friends after overcoming many an obstacle!

As the following pages will remind us, this is exactly what we achieved in 2015. On behalf of the Euroheat & Power team, I would like to warmly thank you for having made it possible through your trust and your commitment. Our community can

be proud of the progress made in a few years time, thanks to its ability to marry an ambitious vision with real life contributions on the ground.

Indeed, our vision is simple and compelling: No energy transition without sustainable cities. No sustainable cities without sustainable heat. No better solution than District Heating and Cooling! In other words, although nobody knows exactly which



mix of solutions will deliver renewables and energy efficiency to the heart of our cities, one thing is certain: developing District Energy is mandatory if we want to reach the targets of the COP21 Paris agreement in due time and at a reasonable cost.

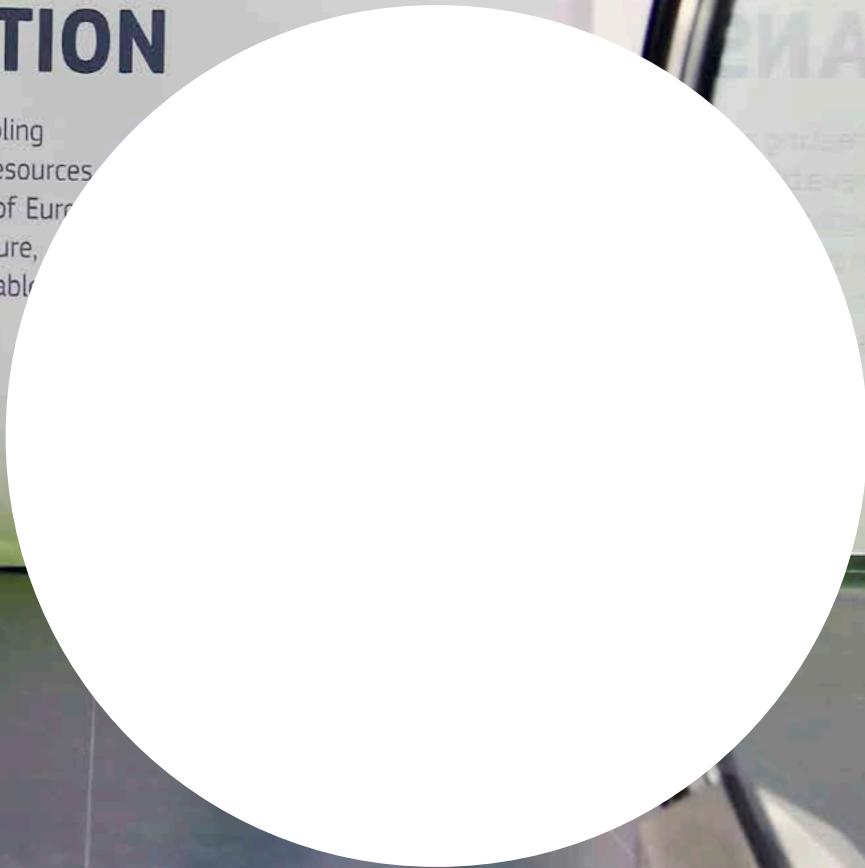
It is our responsibility to make the change widely desired. It is our ultimate ambition to make it happen. The challenge is huge, but so are the stakes! What further motivation could we need?

Each of us has a role to play, be it through addressing the difficulties of today – as an example, low fossil fuel prices do not help! – or by innovating for tomorrow. And all of us will share, I am sure, another year of progress in 2016.

Thanks again for the part you have played!

# HEATING AND COOLING AT THE HEART OF EUROPE'S ENERGY TRANSITION

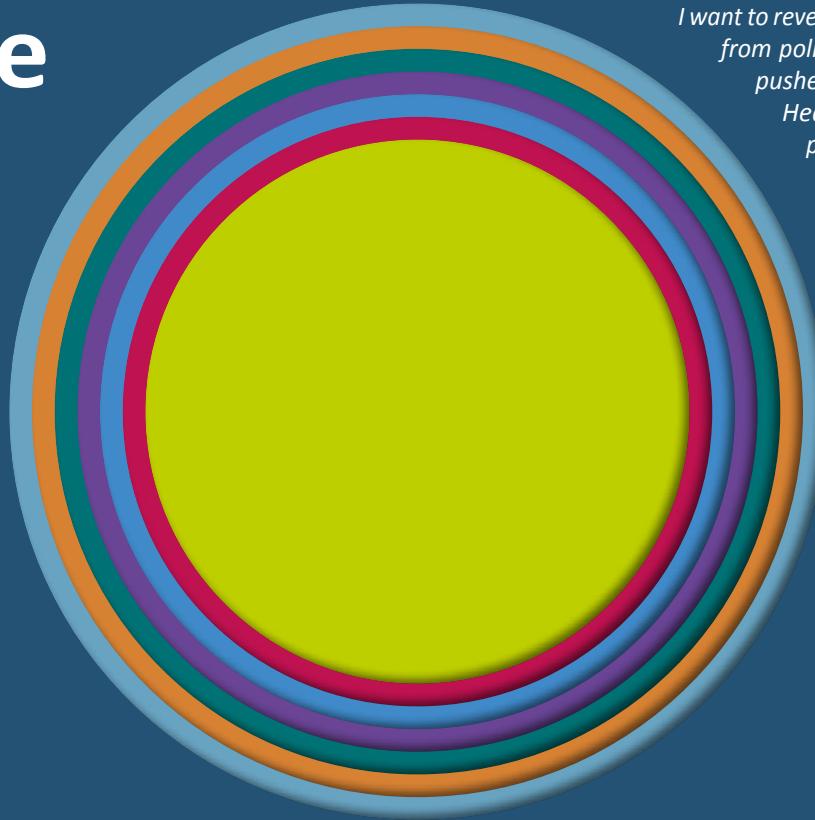
Efficient heating and cooling using renewable, local resources is an essential element of Europe's transition towards a secure, competitive and sustainable energy system.



# Making Our Way to the Centre

Above all else, we will likely remember 2015 as the year that heat in general and District Heating in particular were finally established as political priorities at EU level. At the first ever high level EU conference on heating and cooling in the energy transition, EU Energy Commissioner Cañete summed things up perfectly:

*“For too long, heating and cooling has been the missing piece in European energy policy. I want to reverse this historic inattention from policy-makers, which is why I pushed for an “EU Strategy for Heating and Cooling” to be part of the Energy Union.”*

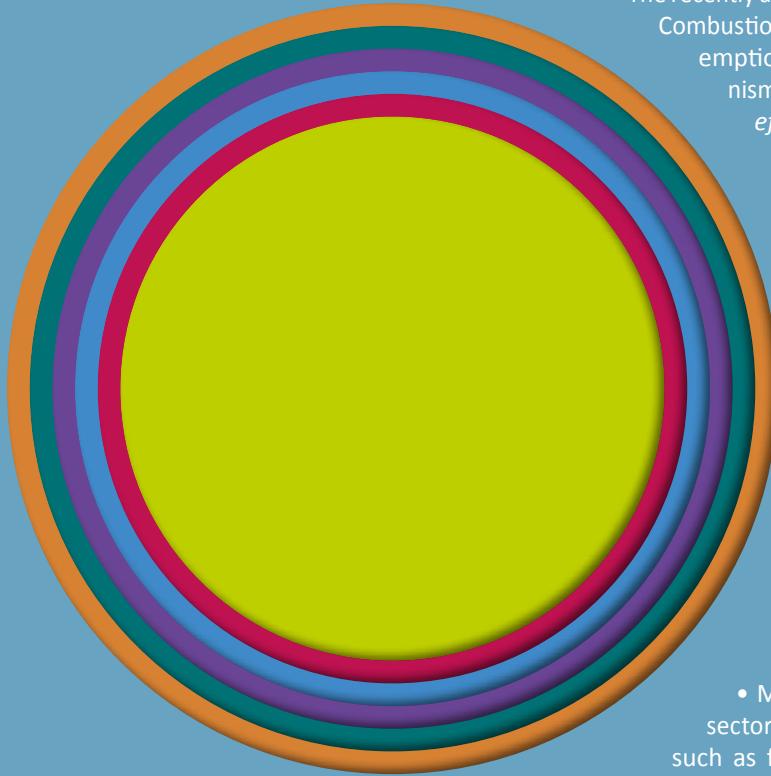


As the leading advocacy voice behind this movement, Euroheat & Power helped position District Heating and cooling as a recognised solution to help the EU achieve its newfound ambitions in this field. This was definitely the year that DHC stepped out of the shadows and into the spotlight!



# Victories in the Policy Arena

While this enhanced political focus on the heating and District Heating is pleasing in its own right, its real value is to help make policy-makers more receptive to our input, saving our industry huge amounts of time and money. 2015 provided encouraging examples of how the increased enthusiasm for District Heating among EU policy-makers has enhanced Euroheat & Power's ability to defend and further our sector's interests during regulatory negotiations:



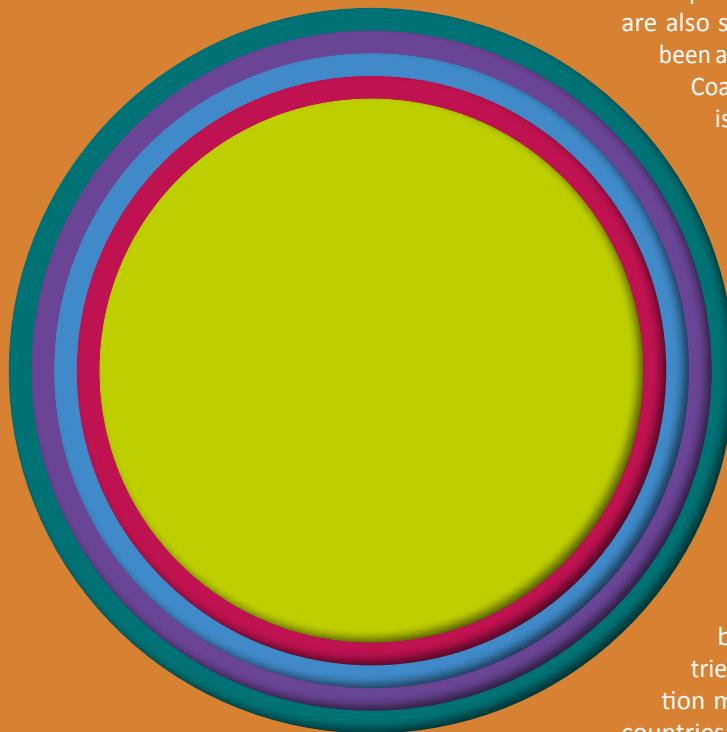
- The recently adopted Directive on Medium Combustion Plants includes various exemptions and flexibility mechanisms in light of *“the overall benefits of District Heating in terms of contributing to a reduction in domestic use of fuels that cause high levels of air pollution, and in terms of energy efficiency improvement and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction”*.
  - A highly favourable outcome to the revision of the reference values used to assess the benefits of CHP as compared to separate production of heat and power.
  - Most vitally, positioning the sector for success in ongoing files such as forthcoming legislation on building performance, energy efficiency and the circular economy.

A special word of thanks here to the many members of the Euroheat & Power family whose time, energy and ideas are the lifeblood of our advocacy activity! Please see our rolling Policy Work Programme for all the details.



# New and Stronger Partnerships

An additional benefit of our sector's growing visibility at EU level has been a marked increase in the number and quality of organisations seeking closer cooperation with Euroheat & Power. A wide variety of actors, including various renewable energy associations and even traditional competitors such as the heat pump sector, have made it clear that they now see DHC as a key partner in helping them achieve their own advocacy and market development objectives.



Relationships with key environmental NGOs are also stronger than they have ever been and, thanks to our entry into the Coalition for Energy Savings, DHC is increasingly recognised as a means of providing not just energy but energy efficiency, an important distinction in a time when utility companies are too often perceived as part of the problem rather than the solution.

Looking beyond Brussels, we have had the opportunity to act in other parts of Europe and the world, supporting the advocacy efforts of many of our members in their respective countries and setting up new cooperation mechanisms with key partner countries such as China, the US and Korea. Euroheat & Power and the District Energy sector as a whole also had the opportunity to play an active role in the historic COP21 conference in Paris.



# Sharing the Story of Us

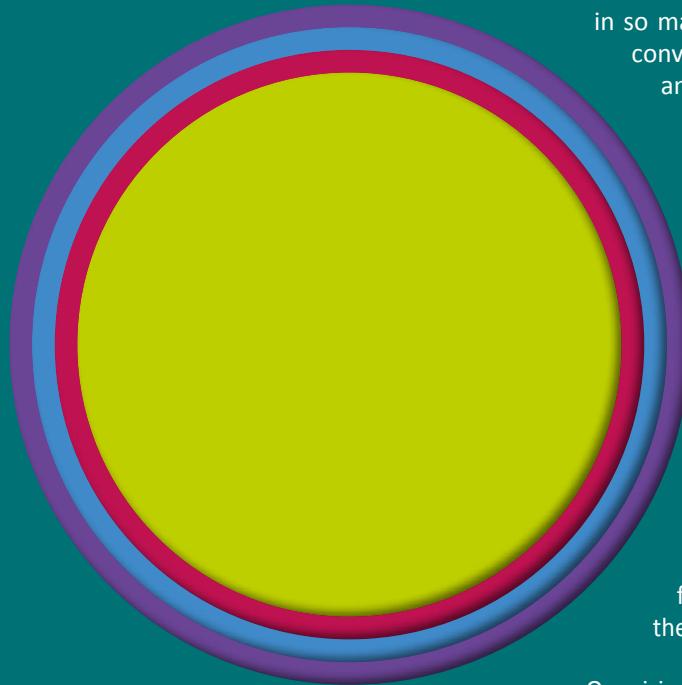
Acquiring a new degree of importance for District Energy within the broader EU stakeholder community could not be possible without telling the world the Story of Us, both in numbers as well as in showcasing our potential.

2015 saw the publication of a new edition of the **Country by Country** survey, our detailed statistical overview of the current state of District Heating and Cooling in Europe and beyond. This year, we made an effort to move beyond providing a simple compilation of numbers and graphs. We began to tell a story, the story of so many people in so many places, driven by a shared conviction that District Energy can and should play a key role in establishing a more sustainable energy model.

Delivering simple key messages to our stakeholders has never been more important. We took this opportunity in a short brochure which shows how our sector harnesses the power of the network to bring sustainable energy to the heart of cities. DHC is so much more than a nice-to-have and success stories from cities across the world are the living proof.

Our vision:

**No energy transition without sustainable cities. No sustainable cities without sustainable heat. No better solution than District Heating and Cooling!**





# Digital Advocacy is Here to Stay

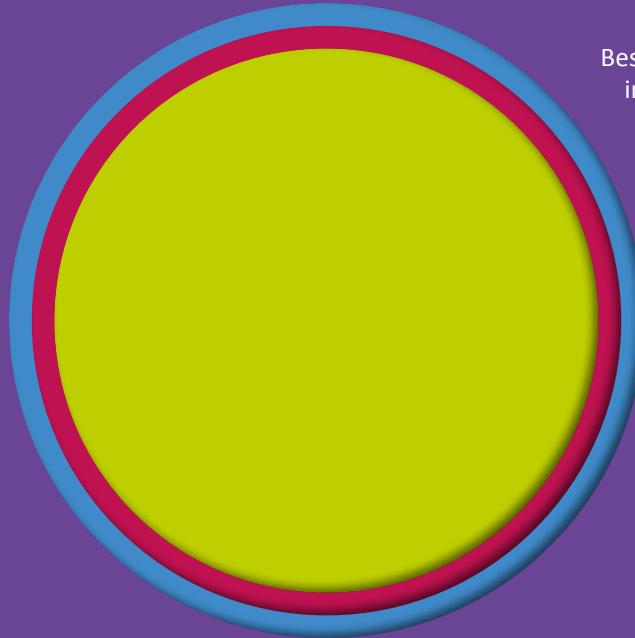
2015 took Euroheat & Power a step further in strengthening its social media presence. Our Twitter account grew significantly and has become an essential tool for increasing visibility, networking, as well as directly engaging policy-makers, industry peers, media and NGO representatives.

Together with the European Commission, Euroheat & Power initiated and energised the online debate for the development of the EU Heating and Cooling Strategy - #HeatingEU has been the official keyword for the online community as of February 2015.

Besides daily updates on EU policy, industry news and live events' coverage, we regularly launched thematic Twitter campaigns on heat mapping, District Energy statistics and best practice case studies.

Stay tuned in 2016!

We plan to take our online presence to a whole new level on [www.euroheat.org](http://www.euroheat.org) and [@EuroheatPower](https://twitter.com/EuroheatPower).





# District Energy in a Connected World

More than 300 participants joined us for the 37<sup>th</sup> Euroheat & Power Congress in Tallinn, Estonia, on 27-28 April. Under the motto “**District Energy in a Connected World**”, we looked at the need for sustainable heat in cities, the evolving energy market, DHC national energy plans and local perspectives, international case studies and much more.

Moreover, the Congress also hosted a series of side events organised by our longstanding partners, the UN Development Programme (UNEP) and the Covenant of Mayors, as well as the annual assembly of our event partner, the Estonian Power & Heat Association. The social events, exhibition and technical visits provided additional networking opportunities.

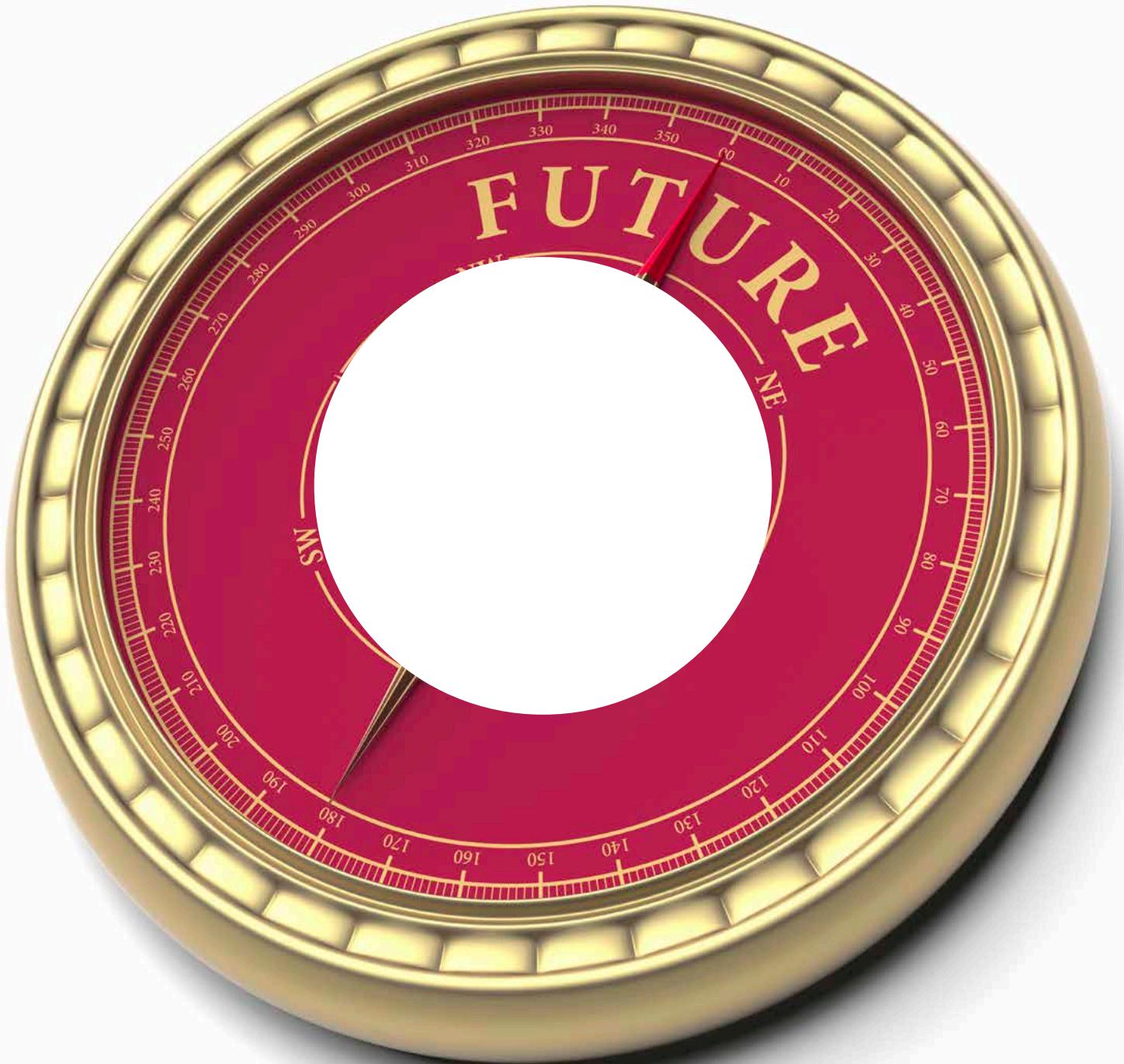
The 4<sup>th</sup> Global District Energy Climate Awards were also revealed in Tallinn. The winners, coming from Germany, Italy and Finland, were selected from those who best articulated their ambition and aspirations for District Energy performance improvements.

Don't miss the 2016 Euroheat & Power Conference organised jointly with the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Trade Fair and Congress for Heating, Cooling and CHP (En+Eff) on 19-21 April in Frankfurt!

[www.eneff-messe.de/en/](http://www.eneff-messe.de/en/)

And save the date for the next Euroheat & Power Congress on 14-17 May 2017 in Glasgow, UK!

[www.ehpcongress.org](http://www.ehpcongress.org)



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# Looking Ahead

Although it's great to celebrate what we have achieved together, we must not allow ourselves to believe that the hard work and the challenges are behind us. Just as 2015 saw new opportunities emerge, so 2016 will be full of challenges, not all of which we can anticipate today. It is our job and our intention to meet these challenges with energy, positivity and creativity.

As District Heating continues its journey from 'flavour of the year' to mainstream policy topic, we will come under increased pressure to deliver more and better information and ideas to policy-makers. With this in mind, we will need to develop a more detailed and high-resolution picture of the role that DHC can and should play in delivering a better energy future for Europe.



If 2015 was the year we secured our place on the energy transition train, 2016 will be the year we begin to look for the right seat, understanding and explaining how DHC can make an optimal contribution to the goals of Europe and its 500 million citizens.

Thank you so much for your support, your engagement and your trust during this past year. We look forward to repaying you, our members, for all of these things and to fighting alongside you once again in the year to come!



Euroheat & Power (EHP) is the international association representing the District Heating & Cooling (DHC) sector. DHC, as the most effective means of bringing sustainable heating and cooling into urban areas, is helping to deliver a better energy system and a better energy transition.

The association unites members from over 30 countries and represents the interests of the sector at the political level towards the European Union and international institutions.



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