



Press Release

World Future Council: EU Climate package will not pave the way for the urgently needed transition to a sustainable energy supply for Europe

Brussels, 23rd January 2008. The World Future Council today said the EU Directive on Renewable Energy proposed today is a step in the right direction but does not go nearly far enough to help Europe on its way towards an urgently needed sustainable energy economy.

The directive lacks the requisite enforcement measures. Moreover the EU's aim to reducing greenhouse gases by 20% by 2020 is too weak and undermines the position it took at the climate conference in Bali.

WFC member and MEP Anders Wijkman: "The directive is a big step in the right direction but lacks the proper incentives to produce renewables where it is cheapest and most efficient." Wijkman also criticized the fact that the commission has failed to include more sector in the emission trading scheme, among them transport.

However, the WFC welcomed the decision by the EU not to include initial proposals for a mandatory trade scheme for renewable energy. This would have threatened the Feed-in Tariff laws, which have proved the most successful mechanism to accelerate the use of renewable energy and have already been implemented in the majority of EU states. Numerous studies have shown the Feed-in Tariff system to deliver the lowest-cost, fastest deployment of renewables across all technologies and scales. In Germany alone they have generated around 250,000 new jobs since 1990.

In order to meet its 2020 targets, the World Future Council calls for an EU-wide implementation of Feed-in Tariff laws.