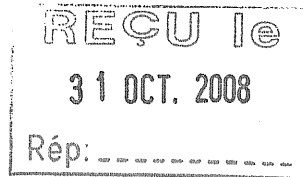




EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

DIRECTORATE D - New and Renewable Energy Sources, Energy Efficiency & Innovation
Deputy Director General for Energy and Acting Director Directorate D

Brussels, **27 OCT. 2008**
TREN/FB/JRV/mcl D(2008)437061



Mr U. Trenkner
ESTTP Secretariat
c/o European Solar Thermal
Industry Federation
Rue d'Arlon 63-65
B-1040 Brussels

Subject: Recognition of European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling (RHC)

Dear Mr. Trenkner,

I would like to inform you that the services of the European Commission have carefully considered your proposal to support the establishment of a European Technology Platform (ETP) on solar thermal energy.

As my colleagues discussed and agreed with you, it would be preferable, in view of the range of existing renewable energy sources (RES) in the heating and cooling sector, to recognise as an ETP a broader initiative inclusive of appropriate renewable heating and cooling (RHC) technologies. As these technologies would cover the main RES sources, such an RHC platform would help maximise synergies and prevent unnecessary fragmentation.

On this basis, the European Commission's services consider that the RHC initiative meets the criteria for official recognition as an ETP. These criteria refer to the platform's research focus, industry commitment and stakeholder base. The RHC ETP will be included in the list published on the Commission's ETP website (http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/individual_en.html) and in the next editions of the ETP Status Report produced by the European Commission (available via http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/further_en.html).

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The RHC ETP will also be considered to have subscribed to the voluntary code of practice on openness and transparency endorsed by ETP industrial leaders in 2005 (see ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/technology-platforms/docs/etp_web_061114_en.pdf).

In this respect, and given that the various RES heating-cooling sectors are currently at different stages of developing networks and research agendas, I am grateful for your undertaking that the structure of the RHC ETP will allow for the proper integration of new technologies in the years to come. While the details of your internal structure are naturally up to you to decide, I would point out that the code of practice implies that the board of the platform would need to include representatives of all the RHC technologies involved as they join.

In addition, the RHC ETP will receive an invitation to attend the ETP industrial leaders' seminars organised by the European Commission. These seminars are organised twice a year to promote the exchange of experiences and cooperation between ETPs on issues of common interest and to present EU policy developments relevant to ETP activities. You can find out more about these seminars via http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/seminar_en.html

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fabrizio Barbaso', written in a cursive style.

Fabrizio Barbaso

Cc: JM. Silva Rodriguez, A. Pauli, Z. Stančič, I. Saragossi, R. Liberali, T. Jürimäe, B. Schmitz, S. Tostmann, J. Riesgo Villanueva, P. Postigo, S. Rogers