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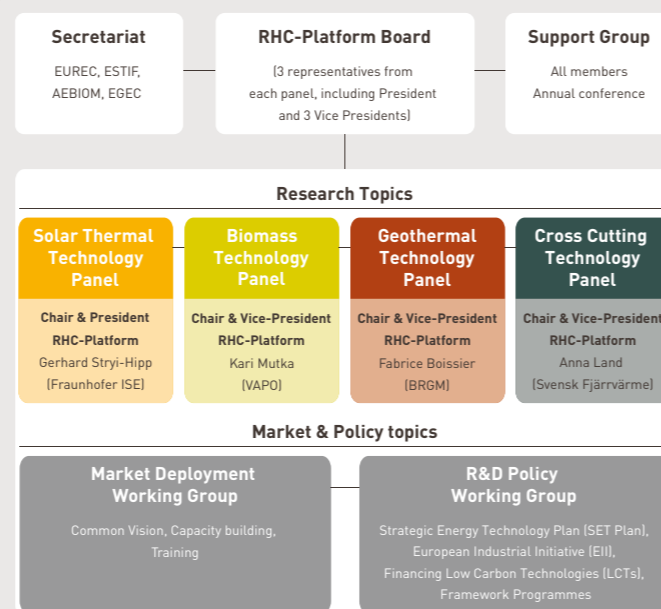
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The Structure

The RHC-Platform consists of **four technology panels** – one for each of the three renewable energy sources for heating & cooling and a fourth dedicated to cross cutting technologies. Acting under the guidance of the respective Steering Committees, each panel is responsible for collecting and developing the stakeholders' inputs from the different sectors.

At the highest decision level, the **RHC-Platform Board** leads the process towards the definition of a common **Vision** and **Strategic Research Agenda** for the entire renewable heating and cooling sector in Europe. Ad hoc **horizontal working groups** on market and policy topics contribute to the achievement of the RHC-Platform's objective.

Structure of the RHC-Platform



The scope and operational structure of the RHC-Platform are to ensure a balanced and active participation of the major stakeholders at the appropriate levels, including all interested industries, scientific research organisations, public authorities, users and civil societies.

How to join the RHC-Platform

All European stakeholders in the biomass, geothermal or solar thermal fields, as well as in any of the cross cutting technologies falling within the scope of the cross cutting technology panel, are welcome to join the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling (RHC-Platform).

Members of the Platform enjoy many **benefits**, which include:

- Receiving the official newsletter and remaining regularly updated on the activities of the RHC-Platform.
- Having the possibility to actively influence the definition of the priority areas for EU policy and research for renewable heating and cooling.
- Participating in focus groups and working groups and being elected on the Steering Committee of one of the four technology panels.
- Attending the RHC-Platform's annual conference.
- Having personalised access to the dedicated "members area" of the website.

To join the RHC-Platform please download and fill in the official **application form** which is available on the website: www.rhc-platform.org.

Participation in the RHC-Platform is free of charge and on a voluntary basis.



RHC Renewable Heating & Cooling
European Technology Platform

Leading the way towards sustainable heating and cooling in Europe

RHC
www.rhc-platform.org

Today, almost half of Europe's total energy consumption is used for generating heat and cold. Most of this energy demand is met by fossil fuels and nuclear power. Only by increasing efficiency and replacing them with renewable energies, greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced and the security of energy supply can be improved significantly.



The European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling (RHC-Platform)

The European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating & Cooling (RHC-Platform) brings together industry, research and policy stakeholders from the biomass, geothermal and solar thermal sectors to determine a common strategy for increasing the use of renewable energy technologies in heating and cooling.

Building on the experience acquired since 2005 within the European Solar Thermal Technology Platform (ESTTP), now incorporated in the RHC-Platform, four major European organisations – EUREC, AEBIOM, EGEC and ESTIF – are spearheading the development of a common Vision and a Strategic Research Agenda for the renewable heating and cooling sector in Europe.

Consolidating Europe's leading position

The RHC-Platform, officially endorsed by the European Commission since October 2008, is playing a decisive role in maximising synergies and strengthening efforts towards research, development and technological innovation which will consolidate Europe's leading position in the sector.

Increasing the share of renewable energies for heating and cooling in Europe



The RHC-Platform main objectives are:

- Defining a common **Vision** for the short-, medium- and long-term evolution of the renewable heating and cooling sector in Europe.
- Setting up a shared **Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)** for all renewable heating and cooling technologies which sets out the research priorities to maintain Europe's scientific and industrial leadership in the renewable heating and cooling sector.
- Establishing and implementing a **roadmap** for the large scale **development and deployment of renewable heating and cooling systems**, including a programme to harmonise Europe's training and education, whilst renewing its research infrastructures.

European Technology Platforms

- European Technology Platform represents a framework for stakeholders, led by industry, to define key research and development priorities, timeframes and implementation plans on a number of strategically important issues.
- They also play a key role in proposing an adequate focus of research funding in areas with a high degree of industrial relevance, and serve as a contact point for the European Commission to discuss in an open and transparent way relevant technology issues with the sector.



Solar Thermal Technology Panel



„Further to the Strategic Research Agenda „Solar Heating and Cooling for a Sustainable Energy Future in Europe“ developed by more than 100 experts in 2008, the solar thermal sector is now elaborating a deployment roadmap to help accelerate the solar thermal technology development.“

Gerhard Stryi-Hipp,
President of the RHC-Platform,
Chair of the Solar Thermal Technology Panel

Geothermal Technology Panel



“In the vision we adopted end 2009, we expect geothermal heating & cooling systems to be available and economic anywhere in Europe for both individual buildings and urban areas: geothermal heat pumps, EGS, as well as integration in heating and cooling networks will be the key technologies for that.“

Fabrice Boissier,
Vice-President of the RHC-Platform,
Chair of the Geothermal Technology Panel

Biomass Technology Panel



„Heating is the core function of energetic biomass use and the development of new technologies will enable the production of high quality fuels, a secure supply, clean and effective combustion processes and perfectly integrated solutions for households, industry, and district heating and cooling.“

Kari Mutka,
Vice-President of the RHC-Platform,
Chair of the Biomass Technology Panel

Cross-Cutting Technology Panel



„A number of “enabling technologies” are critical to achieve a higher integration and take-up of renewable energy sources into the heating and cooling systems. These technologies include district heating and cooling, thermal energy storage, hybrid systems and heat pumps.“

Anna Land,
Vice-President of the RHC-Platform,
Chair of the Cross Cutting Technology Panel