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FEDARENE ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ **Market replication projects under IEE 2009 – Contribution needed!**

Following-up to an invitation from the European Commission's DG TREN, FEDARENE is inviting all its members to contribute to the definition of "Market replication projects" to feed into the specifications of the next (2009) call for proposal (CfP) of the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) programme.

As foreseen in the IEE work plan, the European Commission will open, in 2009, the "Market replication projects" project strand. Hence, the European Commission is in the process of clarifying the definition of what market replication project should be. Therefore, EC recently convened a meeting with representative of the major networks of cities and regions to consult them about the issue.

During the meeting, EC defined "Market replication projects" as projects taking place after demonstration projects and before promotion projects. Commission seems to wish market replication projects to be projects that help triggering important investment from the private sector in Energy Efficiency/renewable energies thanks to relatively small input of public money (=grant for the "market replication projects").

FEDARENE members are hence invited to send in their ideas, opinion and possible experiences to contribute to the definition market replication project. Your input will be used directly to prepare the CfP specifications. Contribution could address different aspects, among others: concept, concrete examples, rough outline for the call's specification, type of expenses that should be eligible, etc.

In 2009, only 1 or 2 projects – with an indicative costs of 3-5 mEUR budget each – should be awarded. This strand would be further developed if it proves successful. For further information, please contact FEDARENE Brussels Office.

◆ **Fedarene Info 36 is now available!**

FEDARENE Info 36 on Energy Performance in Building is out!

More than 40% of European energy is today consumed in buildings and this figure is unlikely to decrease without determined and reasoned action. The potential for energy saving is as huge as the challenge of achieving it. At a time when the European Union is

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revising the Energy Performance in Building Directive (EPBD), FEDARENE showcases sound EPBD implementation measures that work in the European Regions.

EURIMA, which represents the European insulation sector, tells us more about the challenges and opportunities for European business and economy.

And this is not the only challenge ahead - the Renewable Energies Directive and the Covenant of Mayors are paving the way for more sustainable energy policies in Europe. Find out more about the EU regions' contribution to these.

To access the FEDARENE Info n°36, click [here](#) (English version only - French version to be ready soon).

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◆ Biogas Regions project - 2nd newsletter now available



The 2nd issues of the Newsletter of the [Biogas project](#) are already on line. Have a look on the last development of Biogas situation in [Abruzzo](#) in Italy, [Malopolska](#) in Poland, [Rhône-Alpes](#) in France, [Severn-Wye](#) in United Kingdom, and [Wallonia](#) in Belgium.



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◆ SEC TOOLS Conference



SEC-Tools is an IEE-funded project that aims to encourage the adoption of sustainable energy visions in communities, especially in the Union's new member states (www.sec-tools.net/).



The project will hold its final conference and consortium meeting in Prague (CZ) on 13th November, 2008 as a part of the Energy Efficiency Business Week Conference (www.eebw.cz), organised by SEVEN, one of the partners of the project. The event programme includes a presentation of the tools developed under the project for small municipalities, best practices examples and the results of the project.

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MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ Passive house – experiences from renovation and new buildings

The Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden has the pleasure to invite you to a workshop dealing with passive houses on 19 November in Växjö. In the future demands to lower energy consumption in buildings will increase. The EU's "Action Plan for Energy Efficiency" contains both energy declarations and suggestions about a new strategy to decrease energy consumption in buildings. During the day four of Sweden's most experienced buyers and care takers of passive houses will speak and we will also visit new passive houses with wood construction in Växjö. For further details, drop an email to asa.karlsson@energikontorsyndost.se.

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◆ The Agency of Burgos makes you discover the biodiesel



The Energy Agency of Burgos is organizing in partnership with the European Centre of Enterprises and Innovation of Burgos (CEEI), under the framework



of the project PROBIO (Integrated promotion of the biodiesel chain), a travelling exhibition across the province of Burgos with the aim of informing the population about the features of this biofuel and to show the economic and environmental advantages related to its use. This activity is included within its promotion campaign in favour of biodiesel consumption among users, aiming to boost demand throughout the production and supply chain at provincial level.

PROBIO is a project financed by the IEE Programme (Intelligent Energy Europe) of the European Commission and gathers three FEDARENE members, the provinces of Burgos and Avila and the region of Abruzzo. For more information: www.probio-project.com

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◆ Technical conference on the renovation of indoor lightning

RhôneAlpénergie-Environnement invites you to a conference on 21st October in Charbonnières-les-Bains (Rhone-Alpes) a technical conference on the renovation of indoor lightning.

The session will provide with information on technologies of efficient indoor lightning, examples of experiences or how to recycle your lamps. The conference is addressed to contracting authorities, project managers, consultancies and all person interested in the renovation of indoor lightning of tertiary sector buildings.

For further information, download the programme [here](#). If you want to participate in the conference, click [here](#).

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◆ Workshop on energy certificate of buildings, energy performance and Building Technical Code

The purpose of this workshop is to learn effectively how to use software of reference for the energy certificate in new buildings construction according to the Spanish Royal Legislative Decree 47/2007.

This workshop is organised by FAEN in collaboration with Federacion Asturiana de Concejos on 20-23 October in Oviedo. The overall duration of the course is 22 hours. The workshop is addressed to staff from municipalities working in the field of buildings. Click here to know more details on the [Programme and registration](#)

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◆ Funding for energy audits in Castilla La Mancha

Industries can apply for public aid to undertake energy audits in the Regions of Castilla la Mancha. It is planned that this year about 35 companies will apply for funding.

These audits are the result of a partnership agreement between the Energy Agency of Castilla la Mancha, AGE CAM, and the Council of Industry, Energy and Environment to execute actions of energy efficiency in the region, under the framework of the action plan 2008-2012 for the development of the strategy of energy savings and efficiency in Spain (PA E4+).

The target group of this Programme of public aid are manufacturing companies but excluding those producing and converting energy. To be eligible for funding, the companies must be located in Castilla-La-Mancha and its energy consumption must be around 4000 tep/year.

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IEE NEWS

◆ Report by the Court of Auditors on the IEE programme issues critic statements

The European Union energy saving programme 2003-2006, Energy Intelligent Europe, used up 250 million euros (\$366 million) of taxpayers' money but ended with little proof of progress, according to a report published by the European Court of Auditors.

This report by the external auditor of the EU comes as the bloc gears up to spend billions of euros overhauling buildings and industries to make them more efficient and to curb carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in its fight against climate change.

The European Commission's 3-year Intelligent Energy programme, covering 450 projects, ended in 2006, and helped 1,700 organisations share knowledge and experience.

If the reports underlines a few positive aspects, it is overall very critical on the weaknesses of the programme, its results and management. The main attacks were targeted at (1) unsatisfying monitoring and evaluation, which do not provide the Commission

with view of the overall quality and design of the scheme; (2) lack of precise objectives and links with the EU policy regarding energy and climate; as well as (3) the importance of overhead/administration costs, that represent a substantial part of the budget. The report makes a series of recommendations aimed at improving the design of similar programmes in the future, maximising the value of monitoring and evaluation, and containing overhead costs.

The court of Auditor concluded, among others:

"The Commission was not in a position to assess whether local and regional energy agencies made a significant impact, nor to assess whether they improved the coordination of promotion of energy-efficient technology" and "Evaluation reports have not been available in time to influence legislative discussions"

If you want to download the report, click [here](#).

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◆ **IEE 2009 – No grants for creation of new IEE energy agencies!!**

From contacts with the EACI Agency, it has been confirmed that the 2009 IEE call for proposal will not include grants for the creation of new energy agencies.

For more information on the IEE programme and the 2009 call, please read the "[Market replication projects under IEE 2009](#)" article and the "[Report by the Court of Auditors on the IEE programme](#)" article.

These 3 articles seem to indicate a shift in the EU policy towards regional/local energy actors. FEDARENE's Board of administration, during its last meeting in Brussels on Sept 25th, 2008, has decided that FEDARENE will initiate a renewed campaign of lobbying towards the European institutions to stress the role and importance of regional actors in the field of energy. Support of all FEDARENE members will be most welcome.

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ENERGY INFORMATION

◆ **UK consumers still prefer low efficiency bulbs**

According to Greenpeace incandescent bulbs waste 95% of the energy they use and withdrawing them from the UK market could save more than five million tonnes in CO2 emissions a year.

"The brighter bulbs are already fading from view", according to Glen Gotten of the light merchant Ryness. "100w and 150w are difficult to get hold of," he says. "The larger manufacturers have stopped making them. We still manage to get enough to supply our customers for now, but they will start drying up."

"The 150w, in particular, is seriously rare. They're gone from Tesco". Morrisons have already chosen to ditch them, with 100w to follow in the autumn and 60w next year.

Critics blame on this low energy bulbs for not being bright enough and slow to come on and for producing a buzzing noise. These critics are added to those from the Migraine Action Association stating that low energy bulbs seem to increase migraine attacks.

However, the Energy Saving Trust did a spot the difference test in a shopping centre and of 761 shoppers, 53% could not tell the difference between a traditional bulb and a CFL.

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◆ **Hydropower potential in Great Britain**

A study developed by the Forum for Renewable Energy Development in Scotland has shown the potential to raise hydropower capacity by about a half, helping Britain cut greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate global warming.

Britain's hydropower industry is hunting for scarce locations to build dams while the government focuses on wind and nuclear power in its efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

While wind farms have been built around Britain for years, the only hydropower scheme that could be found is near Loch Ness with a capacity of more than 20 megawatts.

Hydropower contributed 70 percent of Britain's renewable power in 1996 but the share had shrunk to about 45 percent by 2004.

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◆ **Support to energy efficiency standards**

EU member states have supported two Commission proposals aimed at slashing the electricity consumption of electronic goods as part of the bloc's efforts to reduce energy wastage.

The regulations, approved on 26 September by a special committee of national experts (regulatory committee), will apply to office, industrial and street lighting products as well as 'set-top' boxes that convert digital TV signals into analogue signals.

If approved by the Parliament later in the year, the Commission predicts that the two measures will lead to significant energy savings.

The electricity consumption of lighting equipment should be reduced by 15%, leading to savings equivalent to the annual electricity use of Romania. TV boxes, meanwhile, would use nearly three times less power by 2014, the Commission said in a statement.

After being given the go-ahead by the Parliament, the Commission expects the regulations to be formally approved by member states in January 2009. Meanwhile, Brussels is expected to propose further EuP implementing measures on product groups such as lamps used in the domestic sector in the next few months.

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◆ **Failure of a resolution on energy prices to protect low revenue groups**

The European Parliament struggled on 25 September to pass a resolution on energy prices as Socialist MEPs accused the centre right EPP-ED group of rejecting proposals aimed at protecting the poor from soaring gas and electricity bills.

The vote on the resolution has highlighted divisions among MEPs over the need to take measures to protect living standards in the face of rising energy costs.

While socialists think that the vote of this resolution represents a failure on behalf of the Parliament toward social measures and leaves the House without an official position, the EPP-ED group opposes to any regulation on energy prices apart from a temporary fiscal intervention for households and industries affected by energy prices.

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ENVIRONMENT INFORMATION

◆ **Adaptation should be taken into account in the economic sectors**

With increasing droughts and precipitations, species losses and higher risks of diseases; European countries need to step up their efforts to adapt to the impact of climate change, according to a new [report](#) by the European Environment Agency (EEA).

It is planned that before the end of this year, the Commission should launch a white paper on adaptation and propose some ways to tackle it.

The Agency proposes that adaptation efforts should be integrated into a sectoral approach across Europe and addresses the cross-cutting impacts that it has on all economic sectors. They also point out that this action will require transnational coordination between policymakers.

The EEA urges swift action to keep adaptation costs from soaring and reminds the conclusions of a study this year outlining that very little is known about the economic potential for adaptation strategies or the economic costs of adaptation options.

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◆ **French presidency calls the Commission to identify sectors that will benefit from carbon exemptions**

The French EU Presidency is stepping up calls for an early identification of sectors that could qualify for exemptions to the EU's carbon market.

A 23 September French EU Presidency [working document](#), asks EU member states to agree to put pressure on the Commission to release, by June 2009, a list of industries that could receive free CO2 emissions allowances to protect them from competition by producers operating in countries where pollution is cheaper.

France's position, which is backed by Germany, reflects the concerns of industries who say that the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS), due to be re-launched with stricter emissions reductions criteria as of 2013, will significantly drive up manufacturing costs. Industries complain that delaying the process of identifying exempt sectors undermines investor certainty and confidence.

The Parliament is also calling the Commission to start identifying sectors as soon as possible but Avril Doyle, in charge of the EU ETS file, agrees that doing that before will undermine EU's credibility in Copenhagen. The Commission agrees with this opinion but is aware of these concerns and have started to identify the sectors that could be eligible of exemptions.

EU Industry Commissioner Günter Verheugen has said more particularly to some countries depending on energy intensive industry, such as Poland, that 100% free CO2 permit allocation is possible. Poland has been complaining that the climate and energy package will undermine Eastern Europe efforts to develop their economies. the 'Visegrad Group' - Hungary, the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic have joined to these complaints and have been calling for a revision of their national targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions and a delay to March 2009 to adopt the climate package. However, French presidency wants to adopts the package by December 2008.

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◆ **Multinationals from the United Kingdom call for actions against climate change**

A group of large corporations in the United Kingdom sent a letter to Prime Minister Gordon Brown last 19 September calling for action against climate change despite the current global economic downturn.

This group which is developed and run on behalf of the Prince of Wales by the University of Cambridge Programme for Industry, calls for significant investment in infrastructure projects to achieve a progressive annual reduction of emissions.

They declare that tackling climate change is the business strategy for growth and offer their support to for the Climate Change Bill currently in Parliament adding that a comprehensive package of policy measures should be developed to change every major sector. They applaud the inclusion of higher energy efficiency standards, support for low-carbon technologies and products, green public sector procurement and welcome the auctioning of allowances under the EU's Emissions Trading Scheme.

In addition, the group calls on the UK to achieve successful UN climate change negotiations in Copenhagen and assumes that the EU will agree to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2020 instead of 20%.

Finally they conclude that government and business must now work together to demonstrate real change on the ground by delivering the new projects and practices that are needed to create a low climate-risk economy. To read the full letter, click [here](#).

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◆ **Agreement on funding Capture and carbon storage technologies is getting shape**

The European Parliament is getting closer to secure funding for emerging technology to capture and store the carbon dioxide emissions of heavy-polluting coal-fired power plants, in an agreement that could bolster the EU's leadership in the fight against global warming.

Chris Davies, the MEP rapporteur, is proposing to use 10 billion euro of allowances, earmarked under the EU's CO2 emissions trading scheme, to finance large-scale demonstration projects.

The allowances would be taken from the EU ETS's New Entrant Reserve, a special pool of of emission rights earmarked for new installations joining the scheme. The emissions rights will be available for coal-fired power plants above "300 Megawatt or more".

The proposal, which concerns amendments to article 32 of the draft directive, will be voted on in Environment Committee on 7 October and Chris Davis hopes to obtain the majority.

As for the DG Environment, they have started to support these projects. However, in the Council there is currently strong opposition to the proposal whose reason is the major attention given to the EU ETS compared to the financing CCS. To read the draft report and the amendments to the proposal in French, English or German, click [here](#).

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◆ **Climate change poll reveals 61% have taken action**

After poverty, climate change is the most serious problem Europe faces. That is the result of a Eurobarometer survey presented in the Parliament on 11 September. It also found that a majority believe that we - the people, governments, industry or the European Union - are not doing enough about it. The survey also found that 61% of people had taken some personal measure to cut CO2. A quarter of those asked said they had altered their buying habits and used the car less to help the environment.

The survey of over 30,000 people in thirty European countries also found that 31% had not taken any measures to change their behaviour. Of those almost half believed that government and industry should take action whilst just over a third did not know what they should do.

Those who had taken action said they believed it would make a difference, that they had a duty to protect the environment or were concerned about what they would leave for future generations.

You can download in English, French and German the full report and in every national language its country fiche, clicking [here](#).

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REGION INFORMATION

◆ **EU urban audit aims at responding to EU cohesion policy**

The results of a recent EU audit measuring demographics, social matters, the economy, the environment, training and education, mobility and transport, the information society, culture and recreation and civic involvement in 321 European cities have been published and should provide the basis for the future of the EU cohesion policy funding. The Commission proposes to use this data in all policies that have an impact on cities.

As for unemployment, the lowest rates have been observed in Norwegian and UK cities. In addition the Commission has realised that there are disparities between districts in the same city and the EU cohesion policy aims at prevent this phenomenon of "ghettoisation".

As far as environment is concerned, Dresden and Frankfurt am Main, manage to recycle almost 80% of their waste whereas Brussels incinerates more than 90% and around a third of the cities are using open landfills for more than 80% of their waste. If you want to to download the audit, click [here](#).

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TRANSPORT INFORMATION

◆ **The European Mobility Week pushes for reductions on CO2 emissions**



The Commission celebrated last 16th September the 7th European Mobility Week with this year's theme 'Clean Air for All'. The purpose of this event is to encourage local authorities to organize activities highlighting the link between mobility and air quality and measures to cut harmful emissions. Some examples include the money back guarantee for customers in Frankfurt when the public transport arrives 10 minutes late or the encouragement by the European Commission to use sustainable transport among its staff.

The Commission Director General for Transport Matthias Ruete highlighted in the European Transport Forum that with urban traffic and road transport accounting for 40% of the EU CO2 emissions, it was time to think a new transport policy.

Former Transport Commissioner Jacques Barrot outlined a new urban transport strategy with many solutions and areas where the EU could take action to tackle the growing congestion, pollution and safety problems in Europe's cities. The action plan is expected by the

end of the year. It will not involve legislative measures but elements such as Intelligent Transport Systems, interoperability and the definition of harmonised rules for green zones. A video news release is available [here](#).

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◆ **MEPs hail 'defeat' of car industry lobby on CO2**

Against expectations and despite strong pressure from industry, the Parliament's Environment Committee yesterday (25 September) voted down a compromise proposal that would have diluted EU ambitions to cut cars' average CO2 emissions.

The deal between EPP-ED and PSE was finally rejected by the Environment Committee, which has the lead on the issue, and is moreover insisting in a tougher objective longer-term target of 95gr/km by 2020.

Those in favour of tough legislation on CO2 to support the EU's climate change fighting ambitions hailed the vote.

But they could yet face disappointment, as the text must still be approved by the plenary in October or November. They also run the risk of seeing their proposals largely watered down by national governments, mainly German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

In addition to this vote, the automotive industry is warning against the introduction of caps on CO2 emissions of vans, minibuses and trucks, which the Commission is planning to propose by the end of the year as part of the new package on greening transport. They complain that the Commission initiative on vans contradicts the fair and cooperative discussions that it is willing to undertake. However, the automotive sector failed to commit voluntarily on emissions from private passenger cars that led the Commission, in a February 2007 strategy paper, to propose binding legislation on CO2 emissions from transport in the first place.

The Commission is likely to insist that implementation proceeds much more quickly than the timescale proposed by the commercial vehicle industry. Indeed, draft legislation on cars, presented in December 2007, asks auto manufacturers to deliver CO2 cuts of roughly 20% (from current levels of 160 grammes of CO2/km to 130gr/km) by 2012.

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EU INFORMATION

◆ **Launch of the European Parliament TV**

On 17th September the European parliament launched its own web TV: EuroparlTV. Anyone with internet access will be able to be up to date on news around the life of the Parliament. Parliament's TV can be accessed in this [website](#).

EuroparlTV is split in four channels: Your Parliament (addressed to lobbyists, informed citizens, researchers and in general to everyone interested in politics at the EU level), Your Voice (for the general public), Young Europe (addressed to school aged children) and a "Discovering the European Parliament" section where you will gain information on the programmes of political groups and committees and on the history and operation of the Parliament.

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EVENTS

◆ **D-ploy project: Deploying large-scale polygeneration in industry - Final Dissemination Workshop**

The D-ploy project (Deploying large-scale polygeneration in industry) is an IEE co-funded project that aims at identifying and helping remove the barriers to the deployment of large-scale co/polygeneration technologies in European industry. Besides the analysis of the policy backdrop and the economic and financial considerations, the D-ploy project is breaking new ground by creating a map of all large-scale installations and highlighting those sites that are implementing co/polygeneration technological solutions. This all in order to provide policy-makers with a visual tool demonstrating how much potential is still untapped.



Final Dissemination Workshop will be held on 30 October in the Diamant Building in Brussels Click [here](#) for the draft agenda, a registration form and practical information.

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◆ **Towards a comprehensive and ambitious post-2012 climate change agreement in Copenhagen**

DG Environment is organising on 15 October 2008 in Brussels a Conference on a post-2012 climate change agreement in Copenhagen. The European Commission is inviting representatives from public authorities, business community, trade unions, consumer organisations, scientists and NGOs from developed and developing countries to express their opinions in this event.

It will focus on mitigations commitment from developed countries to cover issues such as domestic and global carbon market, emission reduction efforts and financial support and actions to enable technology cooperation and priorities for Interpretation in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Polish. If you wish to participate in the conference, please fill in the application form below before 8 October. (see [draft agenda](#)).

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◆ **Training on promotion of soft measures in transport**

This is a training seminar organised by the CIVITAS SUCCESS Project in conjunction with the STEER MIDAS Project on the subject of how best to promote soft measures in transport. It will be held on 31 October in Liverpool. The training will show how the cities of Liverpool, Preston, Aalborg, Ploesti, Suceava and Clermont-Ferrand have undertaken actions to achieve clean and energy efficient urban transport systems. It is addressed to public authorities in the UK and Ireland and those interested in the promotion of sustainable means of travel. To know more about the programme and to register, please [click here](#). Contact: elodie.richard@ttr-ltd.com.



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◆ **Europe, energy and social economy, current stakes and perspectives**

This conference organised by the think tank European Think Tank Pour la Solidarité and the Sustainable Bank Triodos, aims at increasing the visibility of the achievements of social economy in the field of energy. It will be held on 16th of October 2008 in Brussels.

The [programme](#) includes interventions on Energy Efficiency in Building, Eco-district and renewable energies that could be of your interest.

If you wish to attend the conference, drop an email to Diane Grossot, diane.grossot@pourolasolidarite.be with your first and last name, title, organisation, e-mail address and phone number.

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◆ **Preparatory Conference of the Covenant of Mayors**

In order to facilitate the proper implementation of the Covenant of the Mayors, the European Commission is willing to discuss the services that should be available and funding matters. For this reason the city of Helsinki in cooperation with the European Commission's DG TREN and the European Investment Bank are organizing a conference on 20-21 November to discuss some practical details before the signature ceremony in Brussels in February 2009. If you are interested in getting more information and/or participating please do not hesitate to contact majja-liisa.linkola@hel.fi or ulla.soitinaho@hel.fi.

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◆ **Energy Efficiency in Office Buildings Event**

The German-Irish Chamber of Industry and Commerce is hosting a three day event aimed at highlighting energy efficiency in office buildings.

On Tuesday 7 October 2008 they are presenting the free one-day conference 'Energy Efficiency in Office Buildings - Working towards Saving Energy' in Dublin. On the two following days you have the opportunity to meet and consult with German manufacturers and practitioners in your own workplace.

There are lots of ways that Ireland can benefit from German innovation and high-tech energy efficiency products and solutions in particular in the area of office buildings which are major consumers of energy in Ireland.

Given rising energy prices, and following the introduction of new regulations and the availability of grants, Ireland has achieved great success in changing the mindset towards investment in energy efficiency. This has paved the way for a thriving industry. To read the programme of the event, click [here](#).



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PUBLICATIONS

◆ Consumption patterns need to change to cope with growing cities

The International Planning Congress in Dalian, China, which was held in Dalian (China) from 19-23 September 2008, addressed the problems related to urban sprawl and proposed ways to achieve sustainable urbanisation.

A green tax reform is necessary, one that gradually shifts taxes away from labour and investments and towards taxes on pollution and the inefficient use of land, materials and energy.

Urban sprawl is the result of changing lifestyles and consumption patterns and lenient, service-driven planning policies. The areas which have been identified for their environmental impact, are housing, food and drink, and private transport which are responsible all together for about 65% of material use and 70% of global warming potential.

It is expected that by 2020 80-90% of the Europeans will live in urban areas, compared to the current 72%. This highly urbanised Europe will consume much more than what they can produce and demand a higher share of resources from other parts of the world.

The conference was documented by a [report](#) from the European Environment agency published back in 2006.



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◆ Towards an Energy Efficient Building Stock

While the Commission is busy preparing the revision for the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) 2002/91/EC, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, published last 8 September the second EPBD Implementation Report.

Improving the overall performance of the EU's building stock offers an enormous potential for meeting the EU 20% target and a number of measures are being rolled out with the aim of achieving this.

The report, titled "Towards an Energy Efficient Building Stock" provides key facts and figures on all 27 Member States on how their implementation status of the EPBD. Click [here](#) if you want to download it.



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◆ Carbon Capture and Storage: Assessing the Economics



This [study](#) has been published by the business consultancy McKinsey & Company and suggests that by 2030 the cost of capturing and storing carbon dioxide emissions from heavy-polluting coal power plants could be reduced to levels where it can compete with other low-carbon technologies, including renewable energies.

Although the Commission backs CCS and EU member states pledged to have 10-12 CCS demonstration plants by 2015, there is not any funding to develop these from the public or private sector.

The report considers that CCS plants could play a significant role to tackle climate change by 2030 and represents the only technology that can address emissions from coal-fired power plants. CCS could also reduce emissions from all sort of industrial installations already regulated by the ETS, such as steel, cement and refineries, it added.

The costs for integrated CCS projects could come down to 30-45 €/tonne of CO₂ of CO₂ abated for new coal-fired power by 2030. This price is in line with expected carbon prices under the EU CO₂ emissions trading scheme.

The main costs in early demonstration plants will mainly be absorbed by the CO₂ capture phase, representing two thirds of total costs. The remainder will be divided between the transport phase - via existing pipeline networks - and the actual injection of CO₂ in underground rock formations. Long distance transport to the suitable storage location could increase the cost of transport significantly. Price will go down as the first commercial full scale phase gets closer and then a number of projects will be necessary for 5-10 years to low down to 30-45 euros.

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References

The articles of this issue are based on booklets, advertising, seminars and conferences, and on articles featured in the following publications: the Official Journal of the European Union, Newsletter from Inforegio News, Europa, Europarl, etc.

Editorial management: Fedarene staff & members
Rue du Beau-Site, 11, B - 1000 Brussels,
tel. 32/2 646 82 10, fax 32/2 646 89 75,
fedarene@fedarene.org, www.fedarene.org