

PRESS RELEASE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - Brussels

“HERE COMES THE SUN”

Gathering on Friday 19 May in Brussels for the first General Assembly of the European Photovoltaic Technology Platform, 400 delegates from policy, research, industry, finance discussed their work for its first year of activities. This happens in a context when energy and security of supply has become a strategic issue.

Commissioner Potocnik, opening the session, underlined how national member States need to better coordinate research programmes for photovoltaic (PV) with the European level. Considering the fact that PV is a fast growing technology, with social, economic and environmental benefits, he confirmed that the achieved work through the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) will be taken into account for the final definition of the FP7 work programme.

The PV Platform was created in 2005 to implement the PV Vision to 2030. Four working groups are developing concrete action programmes to implement the Vision. The main challenges of this forum are to ensure European industry leadership; that PV is a sustainable energy source able to contribute significantly to the energy mix. Another challenge will be to improve the sector's competitiveness through the deployment in Europe, of adequate support mechanisms (e.g.: feed-in tariff). Solar electricity, has a long-term strong potential therefore it should be adequately taken into account while defining European energy policies.

The platform involves all stakeholders of the PV sector and covers a wide scope of activities relevant to develop the Vision. The actors of the platform have already started to create a dynamism by mobilizing resources and stimulating European-wide cooperation. With the current trend of development and if political efforts are maintained, it is estimated that solar electricity can bring electricity to over 7 million families in Europe by 2010, the platform will ensure that these perspectives are achieved.

Notes to the editor:

The Photovoltaic Technology Platform is an initiative which aims at mobilising all the actors **sharing a long-term European vision** for photovoltaic; realising the **European Strategic Research Agenda** for PV for the next decade(s) and give recommendations for implementation; ensuring that Europe maintains **industrial leadership**.

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The PV Secretariat (PV SEC) provides organisational support to the Steering Committee and Working Groups of the EU PV Technology Platform. Information and Enquiries can be forwarded to the PV SEC Coordinator or Members.

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