

PRESS RELEASE



For immediate release

The European Hydrogen Association welcomes the proposal of the European Commission for a joint undertaking for fuel cells and Hydrogen .

Brussels, October 11, 2007 – Hydrogen as an energy vector and fuel cells as highly efficient energy systems are widely seen as crucial components of a new global energy and transport system that will substitute the current fossil fuel based infrastructures with a sustainable, secure and competitive alternative. The successful integration of the use of hydrogen and fuel cells in Europe's fossil based energy and transport system will require political commitment at all levels to include hydrogen and fuel cell technology together with other clean technologies in the new EU and national Energy mix. Therefore the European Hydrogen Association welcomes the proposal of the European Commission to create a Joint Undertaking for Fuel Cells and Hydrogen in which over 50 European industries, that have formed the New Energy World Industrial Grouping, collaborate with the EU to accelerate the market for commercial applications of hydrogen and fuel cells and support Europe's role as a world leader in this sector.

The development of clean urban transport systems based on hydrogen and the creation of local sustainable hydrogen production chains offer exciting new opportunities for many European companies and communities. In order to guarantee the broadest possible impact of the Joint Undertaking for Fuel Cells and Hydrogen, the EHA urges the European Commission and the Industrial Grouping to ensure that the activities and the results of the Joint Undertaking are shared with all key stakeholders, Regional and local authorities, SME's in all EU Member States.

Bringing together as active members thirteen national associations (BE, DE, ES, F, H IT, LV, N, NL, PT, PL, SE, UK) and the main hydrogen infrastructure development companies (Acciona Biocombustibles S.A., Air Liquide, Air Products, StatoilHydro, the Linde Group, Shell Hydrogen) the EHA is actively promoting the integration of hydrogen applications in EU and national transport and energy policies.

On **October 30, 2007** the EHA is organizing a National Hydrogen Association Workshop in the Palais des Academies in Rue Ducale 1 in Brussels to discuss the dissemination of EU and national project results and coordinate educational activities to inform local authorities, SME's and European schools about the role of hydrogen in clean urban transport and local energy systems .

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