

PRESS RELEASE



For immediate release

Hydrogen and fuel cells among key EU challenges to meet Europe's targets

Brussels, November 28, 2007 –

The European Hydrogen Association, EHA, welcomes the EU Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET plan) and its call to accelerate Europe's transition to a low carbon economy including increasing access to modern energy services in the developing world. Hydrogen, used in fuel cells as highly efficient energy systems, will be a crucial driver and component of a new global, sustainable and affordable, energy and transport system that will eventually substitute the current fossil fuel based infrastructure.

The SET Plan recognises hydrogen as a universal energy carrier that can be produced from a wide variety of primary energy sources. As a storage medium it could play a key role in developing an innovative, efficient, distributed energy system, providing a clean energy solution for transport applications and facilitating increased integration of renewable energy sources into electrical networks. See EHA brochure "Where will the Energy for Hydrogen Production come from?" [here](#)

The use of hydrogen as a transport fuel could also significantly reduce urban air pollution, the EHA therefore strongly suggests the Commission to increase support of the development and benchmarking of local energy chains that include hydrogen and other clean technologies and that most effectively reduce local emissions in the short and medium term.

The European hydrogen and fuel cell industry has been among the most active in forming strategic alliances to overcome technological challenges and confront regulatory barriers. These efforts in collaboration with the Commission have resulted in the recent EC proposal for a Joint Undertaking for Fuel Cells and Hydrogen. The EHA encourages the European Parliament and the Council to support the Commission's proposal and ensure Europe's role as a global market leader in many hydrogen and fuel cell applications. The Joint Undertaking will also contribute to increased coordination and focus of current technology developments and speed up the market uptake of competitive applications.

Bringing together as active members fourteen national associations (BE, CH, 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, Ajusa, StatoilHydro, the Linde Group, Shell Hydrogen) the EHA is actively promoting the integration of hydrogen applications in EU and national transport and energy policies, building synergies with other organisations to help realise the "step change" towards a sustainable future.

On **January 30, 2008** the EHA is organizing the session "Hydrogen in the City: sustainable urban hydrogen projects to reduce local emissions," at the European Sustainable Energy Week. We will present current projects in cities and regions around Europe as concrete examples of Europe's expertise in this field. To register please visit www.eusew.eu.

For further information on EHA activities please contact:

Marieke Reijalt, reijalt@h2euro.org

Tanya Carre, info@h2euro.org

EHA Secretariat: Gulledelle 98, 1200 Brussels Tel +32 2 763 25 61 Fax +32 2 772 5044
info@h2euro.org www.h2euro.org