

March 2008 Overview

1. EHA in Action

EHA attended telecom of Taskforce HYRaMP Regional Partnership. 2008-03-27

Since October last year the EHA has participated in a Taskforce to prepare the creation of the European Regions' and Municipalities' Partnership on Hydrogen and Fuel Cells (HyRaMP) to coordinate regional hydrogen and fuel cell activities and to create one voice of the Regions with regards to the JTI. The EHA has offered to facilitate an organisational secretariat to help kick off the partnership as the Commission is pointing to increase the involvement of civil society organisations and associations in the execution of EU funding programmes as Cohesion and Structural funds. The Constitutive Meeting of HYRaMP in Brussels is scheduled for 14 April 2008, 10:00 hrs at the Charlemagne Building in Brussels. EHA national member associations are asked to inform interested Regions in their countries to participate.

EHA attended the European Parliament ITRE Committee presentation on the ETS, 2008-03-26.

The EHA attended a discussion on ETS based on the study, "Review of the Emissions Trading Scheme", conducted by AEA Energy and Environment (UK) an energy consultancy based in the UK. Points of criticism of the first phase were discussed as investment uncertainty, windfall profits, lack of quality data. The new Ms Avril Doyle (EPP. IRL) rapporteur for the ETS dossier in the EU Parliament commented that she will wait to hear the views of the energy intensive industries at the Hearing that is scheduled later this spring. President Barosso indicated in his review of the last EU summit of March 13-14, 2008, that the energy intensive industry will be looked after if there is no international carbon credit agreement in the IPCC meeting in Copenhagen in December 2009. The Commission highlighted the need for harmonisation as national allocation plans do not seem the best way as the first phase demonstrated. The Commission also explained its goal is to have an international agreement to reduce climate change to less than 2 °C, and to link to the Californian, Australia's and other ETS. It also is looking at including maritime transport. The Commission indicated that revenues of ETS trading should spent at MS level.

EHA attended Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee meeting on homologation of hydrogen vehicles of EU Parliament. 2008-03-26

The EHA received notice that the Council of the EU had asked to take out the mixture of hydrogen and natural gas in the art 3 of the Commission's proposal for the Regulation for the homologation of hydrogen vehicles and put a reference in the art 12 in order for the Commission to better define the sort of mixture. The EHA asked the rapporteur of the dossier in the EU Parliament to support the inclusion of mixtures in the Regulation in order to avoid different regulations for the mixtures in different Member States. The Commission supports this position but could live with a compromise to take it out of the definition art 3 and to include it in art 12. The EHA has received a written confirmation of

the Commission on the change and the assurance that the mixtures are still part of the Regulation

EHA received confirmation of the Commission on its request that hydrogen produced from all renewable sources is counted as a biofuel. 2008-03-17 At its last Board meeting the EHA invited the Commission to explain the position of hydrogen in the new Renewable Framework Directive. The Commission then promised to send an explanatory note to the EHA that outlined the definition of hydrogen in this new Directive. On March 17 the EHA received the Commission's response that included the EHA request to use the same definition for hydrogen as a biofuel as in the former Biofuels Directive. The Commission response stated that when:

- “1. hydrogen is produced by renewable energy (as in the definition 2a of the Directive) and used in a fuel cell it is counted as renewable energy and thus contributing to the 20% target;
2. hydrogen is produced by renewable sources (biomass, wind, solar as in the definition of 2a) it is counted as a biofuel, and thus contributing to the 10% target, as it was in the last Biofuel Directive;
3. As regards double counting: if hydrogen is produced by renewable energy and used in a fuel cell it is counted towards the 20% target only if the res-electricity used to produce the hydrogen was not already counted towards the 20% target”. (*end of quote*)

EHA expressed its views on the ETS proposal to the Commission. 2008-03-12. The EHA organised a meeting with DG Environment on the inclusion of big hydrogen production facilities in the proposal of a new Emission Trading System (ETS). The EHA explained that including big hydrogen installations (more than 25 tons per day) in the ETS will increase the price of hydrogen just when the sector in collaboration with the EU Commission and EU Member States is embarking on a big programme to establish a commercial market for the use of hydrogen as a clean energy vector. The EHA referred also to the risk that efficient central production of hydrogen will be spreading to on site smaller production units. The Commission will evaluate the EHA suggestion to include the consequences for clean technologies of the ETS in art 10a. of the new ETS proposal as well as in the revenues sharing in art 10. He mentioned though that the earmarking of 20 % of the ETS revenues is facing a difficult reception in the Council of the EU.

EHA attended Hearing on EU Parliament Hearing on CCS. 2008-03-06 The EU Parliament rapporteur for the proposal for a Carbon Capture and Storage Directive organized a Hearing inviting the Commission, BP, the Green Party of the EU Parliament and the rapporteur of the EU Strategic Energy Technology Plan to express their views on the proposal for a Carbon Capture and Storage Directive. The Commission is accelerating its support for regulatory adaption to allow CCS in EU Member States. No EU financial support has been dedicated for the short term as the EU expects Member States to finance part of the bill. Twelve pilot plants are scheduled to be developed in the next ten years and a “Flagship programme has been presented last October by the Zero Emission power Plan Platform (ZEP). The Green party representative indicated that she did not have a official position on CCS yet.

EHA was invited to the European Parliament workshop on the JTI for fuel cells and hydrogen. 2008-03-05.

EU Parliament rapporteur Pia Locatelli (PSE, Italy) invited representatives from the science community and the Industrial Grouping to comment on four questions:

- Which hydrogen technologies are close to market;
- Adequacy of the preparatory documents of the JU;
- Adequacy of the JU means & objectives;
- Recommendations / governance.

The discussion was mostly focused on the governance of the JU and the role of Research institutions and Member States.

The EHA made a comment at the Workshop referring to the need to ensure continuity of projects and objectives beyond 2013 and the need for education and training activities. The EHA comments were sent as suggestions for the Ms. Locatelli's report that is due in May.

2. EHA Promotion

Press

The EHA prepared another campaign with Euractiv to promote the EHA's presence at the Hanover Fair and the session on Hydrogen Handbooks for hydrogen refuelling stations (HyApproval), stationary applications (HYPER) and a Training manual on fuel cell and hydrogen installations (H2 Training) that the EHA co organizing with Ecofys on April 23 at 1600 at the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Group exhibit in Hall 13..

Membership:

EHA met with ENI on March 7 to discuss their priorities with regards to infrastructure development and the role of the use of hydrogen and natural gas mixtures. ENI has inquired about interests in the use of mixtures in other regions in Europe.

Conferences::

1. The EHA secretariat has sent out a request for preliminary interest in organising the EHEC 2009 to the national association members: three associations responded , Italy, Switzerland and the UK;
2. The EHA is invited to a meeting on April 11 at the FCHInstruct office to discuss its role in the organisation of the General Stakeholders meeting of the JTI programme office in October 2008
- 2.. 14th Group Exhibit Hydrogen + Fuel Cells, April 21-25, 2008 in Hannover, the EHA has confirmed a 10m" booth space. Like last year the EHA is collaborating with the DWV to present national association members activities and national association members are invited to communicate their interest to be a co exhibitor for a fee of only € 500, that allows them a presence with posters and brochures at the stand . The EHA also will also co-organize a seminar at the Fair to present the HyApproval, HYPER and H2 Training projects on Wednesday April 23, 2008 at 1600 at the Group Exhibit premises.

EHA Taskforces

1. Hydrogen in the City:

The EHA has been working with the Ministry of Transport of the State of Brussels (one of the three Belgian States) to identify opportunities to increase the visibility of hydrogen applications in Brussels to inform key EU decision makers. The EHA organised a meeting with the responsible officials from the Brussels International Logistics Centre that is located in a new urban development area near the centre of Brussels to discuss the integration of different hydrogen applications (forklift trucks, back up power etc) and a hydrogen refuelling station at the facility.

2. Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan). The EHA in collaboration with the German Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association is preparing a paper on the role of hydrogen as a strong partner of renewable energy deployment. The EHA Board has been asked to comment on the first draft until March 28: no comments have been received. The EHA, LBST and DWV decided on a new introduction to the paper attached to facilitate the positioning of the paper in discussions on the content of the EU Strategic Energy Technology Plan that will be voted in the EU Parliament Committee on Industry Energy and Research on May 28.

3. EHEC.

- A Dutch court on February 8 2008 decided to allow the opening of the EHEC books as requested by the Dutch Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association to facilitate a solution for the creditors and paid participants of the Stichting EHEC 2007. The Dutch Association has reviewed the books and has sent a request for clarification on some line items to the Stichting EHEC 2007.

- The EHA secretariat has sent out a request for preliminary interest in organising the EHEC 2009 to the national association members; the deadline was March 15, 2008 and so far the UK, Swiss and Italian association have communicated their interest.

- The EHA asked the organiser of the Grove symposium, Elsevier, to submit a proposal for organising the EHEC.

4. EHA Statutes

The EHA office has verified the legal options to adapt the Statutes to allow civil society organisations (Regions and large municipalities) and small and medium sized companies active in hydrogen developments to join the EHA. The draft new Statutes and suggested fee structure will be sent to the Board before the Board meeting on April 29 and subsequently submitted to the next AGM for general approval.

3 EU News

EU Parliament organised a Workshop Sustainability criteria for Biofuels, 2008-03-04. There is broad agreement regarding the key sustainability criteria for sustainable biofuels (hydrogen is regarded a biofuel when produced by renewable energy, see under EHA in Action). Both the independent Cramer Commission in the Netherlands and the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LCVH), a multi-stakeholder organisation in the UK, concluded there are 7 principal direct impacts of biofuel feedstock production:

- Conservation of carbon
- Conservation of biodiversity
- Soil conservation
- Sustainable water use
- Protecting air quality
- Workers rights
- Protecting land rights

The mandatory criteria proposed by the European Commission in the proposed Renewable Energy Directive to exclude fuels produced on areas of high conservation value and high carbon stocks are a good starting point, and focus upon key concerns. However, the proposed Directive only addresses a small proportion of the total direct environmental effects and none of the social issues. Extending the scope of issues addressed by mandatory criteria to cover a wider range of issues, such as soil conservation and sustainable water use is clearly desirable. However, this can only be done if simple, clear indicators can be identified that can be rigorously enforced and meet World Trade Organisation Rules, according to the LCVP .

In a compromise text drafted on March 17 the Slovenian presidency of the EU proposed that biofuels should have a greenhouse gas saving of "at least 50%" from 2015 compared to fossil fuels, following pressure from some countries to strengthen the sustainability criteria of biofuels. The European Commission had proposed a greenhouse gas saving of "at least 35%" in its draft law on boosting the EU's share of renewable energy published in January.

EU Spring Council pledged to reach agreements on CO2 reduction and renewable energy laws 2008-03-14. Before the end of the year, in a bid to maintain a strong position in international climate change negotiations. Energy intensive industries were given assurances that the measures would safeguard their competitiveness. "There is a very ambitious time-line," Janez Jansa, speaking on behalf of Slovenian EU presidency, According to Mr Jansa, the green package – which sets out how to cut carbon dioxide emissions and boost the share of renewable energy sources in overall energy consumption by 2020 - should receive full political backing by all EU governments by the end of 2008. "Then we have to find common language with the European Parliament - in the first month of 2009 at the latest," he added. The European Parliament has also said it will work to this tight deadline, with complicated legislation such as this normally taking years to get through the Brussels legislative system.

EU Parliament approved funding of a new Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund (GEEREF). 2008-03-13 The Commission hopes the fund will generate up to €1 billion in risk capital for 'green' energy projects in developing states. The EU will contribute €80 million to the fund by 2010, with a €15 million 'kick-start' contribution scheduled for 2008. Lending institutions like the World Bank and the European Investment Bank (EIB) will also contribute to the fund, with possibly €100 million in total initial funding from commercial and public sources. "This is expected to mobilise additional risk capital of at least €300 million " according to the Commission. The focus will be on the promotion of renewable and energy efficiency projects in areas neglected by mainstream investments.

European Retailers's reduce energy use per square metre by at least 20% by 2020.

2008-03-10. The decision by a number of large retailers to reduce their carbon footprint and inform consumers about more environmentally respectful choices, are welcomed by the Commission as an important contribution to the fight against climate change. "The EU commitment to mitigate climate change doesn't only concern national governments. If we are to succeed, the commitments to reduce our CO2 emissions must also be adopted by civil society and market actors," declared Commissioner Piebalgs. "This initiative (of the Association of Europe's leading retailers) deserves all the more praise given the fact that it has been launched jointly by major actors in a fiercely competitive market," he added. Retailers are key players in the achievement of the EU's ambitious objectives for the reduction of greenhouse emissions. Not only are they important energy consumers, they also have a huge potential to change the global energy landscape. Furthermore, consumer purchasing decisions have a decisive influence on our environmental footprint. The Commission will continue to follow the development of this voluntary commitment, which is also open to other parties.

Majority Europeans consider local pollution key environmental concern above climate change.

2008-03-13 concerned about climate change and think EU agricultural policies are failing to address rising food costs, according to two new Eurobarometer surveys published yesterday (13 March). Three quarters of Europeans also say they are ready to pay more for greener goods, but few have actually done so, the surveys found. The survey, conducted by TNS between November and December 2007, shows that the majority of respondents consider pollution in towns and cities to be a key local environmental concern, followed, once again, by climate change. 67% of respondents said they would like to see more EU-level action in the environmental field, while only 28% said action should be taken at national level, leading the Commission to conclude that an "overwhelming majority of Europeans see harmonised European environmental legislation as necessary, and believe that the EU should help other countries improve their environmental standards," EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas said in a press statement.

Mercedes starts limited mass production of B class in 2010.

2008-03-07 At the Geneva Motorshow, Dr Dieter Zetsche, the chairman of Mercedes-Benz, insisted that the company was "very, very serious" about mass producing fuel-cell cars: he indicated that the start of mass production will be in 2010 at an extremely low level in the B-Class but Zetsche says that he is convinced that by 2014-15, distinctive, economically competitive fuel-cell models will be in production, probably rising to 100,000 a year.

The EU has agreed the launch of two major ICT initiatives, the ARTEMIS and ENIAC Joint Technology Initiatives.

2008-03-07 ARTEMIS is concerned with maintaining European strengths in the area of embedded computing systems; ENIAC is concerned with all Nano-electronics technology (including power devices, RF, MEMS, sensors, materials, equipment). The overall budget of the ARTEMIS initiative is €2.5 billion over seven years with around 55% coming from industry. In short, each € contributed by the Commission will leverage 6 € of research effort. Overall, the Commission is expecting to contribute €410 million during the seven years, starting with €41.5 million in 2008. For ENIAC the overall budget is close to 3 billion € over seven

years and the Commission is expecting to contribute €440 million during the seven years, starting with €41.5 million in 2008. It is expected that the first Call for proposals for both initiatives will be launched in April 2008: the information day is scheduled for April 4 in Brussels.

EU Member States divided on fleet emissions 2008-03-03. The Environment Council of the EU, held on March 3-4 in Brussels showed the differences on how much of the burden for cutting average fleet emissions should be borne by small vehicle manufacturers, mainly located in France and Italy, and how much should be borne by larger ones, mainly in Germany and Sweden. The 'slope of the curve' indicates how strongly CO2 standards depend on a car's mass under the Commission's weight-based proposal. If targets were based solely on weight (i.e. a vertical slope), manufacturers of larger vehicles would have no incentive to make their cars lighter – and thus more fuel-efficient – as any loss in mass would immediately result in stricter CO2 targets. Such a curve would also penalize manufacturers of small cars by requiring them to achieve much lower emission levels than for heavier cars, despite the fact that they already emit less. While the Commission is pushing for a 60% slope, Germany is insisting on an 80% slope to accommodate its companies including Mercedes, BMW and Porsche. French environment minister Jean-Louis Borloo however said that even a 60% slope would be "very difficult" to achieve and that 30% should be the maximum. The Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria and Slovakia, which are all home to German car manufacturing hubs, as well as Sweden, with its Saab and Volvo brands, backed Germany, while France was supported by Italy, Spain and Romania.

4. National News

France

Call for proposals of the French National Action Plan for Hydrogen and Fuel cells PAN-H 2008. 2008-03-16

The Call covers four themes: hydrogen production, distribution and storage, fuel cells PEMFC, SOFC, PCFC) and cross cutting activities. The Call is also open to foreign participation. The deadline of the call is **open till April 11, 2008** For more info click <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/AAPProjetsOuverts?NodId=17&lngAAPId=200>

Germany

TÜV SÜD and LBST present new hydrogen and fuel cell portal. 2008-03-18: TÜV SÜD and Ludwig-Bölkow-Systemtechnik (LBST) have merged their Internet activities in the areas of hydrogen technology and fuel cells. Three leading international websites may now be accessed with a single click: www.netinform.de/H2. The new information portal offers user-friendly access to comprehensive content attractive to experts and interested laypeople alike. The hydrogen and fuel cell portal of TÜV SÜD and LBST combines a host of detailed information on hydrogen and fuel cells, from chronological development to all aspects of the subject, with a high level of user friendliness.

Italy

Italian Call for proposals for energy efficient technologies including hydrogen and

fuel cells. 2008-03-06. The Italian Ministry of Economic Development, Mr. Bersani announced a Call for Proposals on March 6 under the Industria 2015 program. Around €10-11mln has been earmarked for the development of a small fuel cell and an innovative storage technology. 15% of the project budget could be set aside for the participation of one or more foreign partners. This Industria 2015 budget is in addition to the announced € 10 mln in the Italian government budget for 2008 for a hydrogen and fuel cell and related technology platform budget. Italy hopes to accelerate hydrogen infrastructure developments as Milan has been selected as the location of the WorldExpo 2015 on March 31.

Hungary

The Hungarian National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Platform (HHFP) won €125.000 grant from the National Research and Technology Agency. 2008-03-20 (NKTH, the contact agency of FP7 in Hungary). This information has been published on the homepage of the Agency, and an official notice is expected to be issued soon. Also, we are actively making preparations on advising the Hungarian administration regarding selecting the responsible officer to coordinate hydrogen and fuel cell programs in Hungary with the EU.

Netherlands

SenterNovem, NWO and ECN, are organizing a forum on 22 May 2008 at the Energy Research Centre (ECN) in Petten to present the advances in Dutch fundamental hydrogen and fuel cell research. The aim of the conference is to provide a forum to present current research results and exchange knowledge and new ideas. More info at www.ecn.nl.

UK

Transport for London is investigating ways to make London's buses more sustainable, and is already made a significant investment in hybrid technology for buses. Trials of hybrid technology has shown it to be a cost effective solution to reduce emissions of NOX, PM10 and CO2. Noise emissions are also lower when compared to a standard bus. Buses from a number of different manufacturers using various hybrid technologies will be evaluated to determine the best for London, and it is anticipated that new buses will be phased in as follows:

- 60 hybrid buses introduced into service by December 2008
- 100 additional new hybrid buses introduced into operation by March 2010
- 200 additional new hybrid buses introduced into operation by March 2011
- 500 additional new hybrid buses introduced into operation by March 2012

5. News form the secretariat

EHA national member associations are asked to communicate their interest to become co exhibitor at the Hanover Fair before April 14. The cost is € 500,00 to have a poster up and brochures. Borchures should be sent to the EHA secretariat before April 16.