

December 2008 Overview

1. EHA in Action

EHA industry members met with EU Parliament technicians to present commercial hydrogen applications for EU buildings. 2008-12-18

The EHA facilitated a meeting with technicians of the EU Parliament and EHA industry members to present an update of stationary and portable hydrogen applications and discuss the use of these application in EU Parliament buildings. Back up power and material handling equipment could be potential areas where hydrogen systems could have advantages with regards to performance, noise abatement and emission reduction in EU facilities.

EHA hosted a seminar of the EU Procura project on procurement of alternative fuel vehicles. 2008-12-17

EHA hosted a seminar on the public procurement of clean vehicles in Brussels organized by the EU project Procura. The seminar featured the results of the Procura project that has been looking at lowering barriers with regards to the procurement of clean vehicles by public and private fleet owners. The project developed a fleet scan tool that assists fleet owners in calculating cost and emission benefits of substituting conventional vehicles with cleaner alternatives. The responsible officer for the EU Commission proposal for a directive on the promotion of clean and energy efficient road transport vehicles, that has been approved by the EU Parliament, Franz Soeldner presented the Commission actions on this topic. More info at www.procura-fleets.eu.

EHA participated in the Debrief of FCH JTI Stakeholders General Assembly. 2008-12-12.

The FCH Instruct office, that is preparing the operational structure and activities of the Joint Undertaking for Fuel cell and Hydrogen (JTI) organized a debriefing on the JTI Stakeholders General Assembly held last October in Brussels. More than 500 people participated in the Assembly event; 40% from Industry, 20% from Research and 10% from Regions, the rest coming from the Commission and NGO's etc. The idea is to organize an annual event that should become the main hydrogen and fuel cell event of the year in Europe. The EHA has been invited to contribute to the organisation of the event.

EHA presented Hydrogen and Fuel Cells as strong partner of renewable energy systems at Dutch annual Hydrogen conference. 2008-12-10

The EHA presented the study that was commissioned together with the German Hydrogen and Fuel cell association, DWV at the Annual conference of the dutch Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association, NWV. The conference was attended by over 100 industry and government representatives. For more information on the NWV activitis please visit www.waterstofvereniging.nl.

2. EHA Promotion

Press

A new EHA campaign will start the beginning of January Euractiv news portal to promote the EHA session at the EU Sustainable Energy Week on February 9, 2009.

Membership

Conferences

- EHA is hosting a seminar on the public procurement of clean vehicles in Brussels on December 17, 2008 from 930 till 1300. More info at www.procura-fleets.eu.
- The next EHA national member association workshop on the occasion of the EU Sustainable Energy Week in Brussels from February 9-12, 2009. EHA National Associations are asked to communicate topics of their interests as well as requests to present their national programmes to include in the Workshop to the EHA secretariat at info@h2euro.org. The final date of the Workshop will be communicated shortly.

Financing

3. EHA Taskforces

1. Hydrogen in the City

The Taskforce "Hydrogen in the City" is organizing the programme for the EHA session "Hydrogen and fuel cells as strong partners of local renewable energy systems" on February 9, 2009 in Brussels. EHA members are asked to communicate their interest to be part of this session or to attend to the secretariat.

2. Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan).

3. EU 2009

The EHA has started a draft of an EHA Value proposition to communicate key messages to prospective members and EU decision makers has been circulated. The final version will be discussed at the next EHA board meeting on January 27, 2008 in Brussels.

4 EU News

EU Parliament approves Directives in Climate package. 2008-12-17

After eleven months of legislative work, the European Parliament gave its backing to the EU's climate change package which aims to ensure that the EU will achieve its climate targets by 2020: a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, a 20% improvement in energy efficiency, and a 20% share for renewables in the EU energy mix.

Already before Parliament's first-reading vote, MEPs had reached informal agreements with the French Presidency on the six proposals which all fall under the co-decision

procedure. The following reports were approved:

Revising the EU's Emission Trading System - report by Avril Doyle (EPP-ED, IE)

The revised EU Emission Trading System (ETS) will apply from 2013 to 2020 and should lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 21 % compared to reported 2005 levels. The EU ETS is a "cap and trade" system: it caps the overall level of emissions allowed but, within that limit, allows participants buy and sell allowances as they require, so as to cut emissions cost effectively. The Community-wide quantity of allowances issued each year will decrease in a linear fashion, so as gradually to reduce the overall level of emissions each year. The ETS currently covers over 10,000 installations in the energy and industrial sectors, which are collectively responsible for close to half of the EU's emissions of CO₂ and 40% of its total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (the remaining 60 % will be covered by the 'non-ETS' Effort Sharing decision). The revised directive establishes auctioning from 2013 in principle (as proposed by the Commission and backed by the Environment Committee) but it includes several exceptions, as advocated by the European Council on 12 December 2008. The EHA has lobbied for consideration of the consequences of the revised ETS for hydrogen development in Europe as big hydrogen installations will be included in Annex 1 of the Directive and will have to buy credits.

Effort sharing: Member States targets for CO₂ reduction - report by Satu Hassi (Greens/EFA, FI)

The "effort sharing" decision sets binding national targets for each EU Member State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from non-ETS sources (e.g. road and sea transport, buildings, services, agriculture and smaller industrial installations), between 2013 and 2020. These sources currently account for about 60% of all EU greenhouse gas emissions. The decision aims to reduce these emissions by 10% overall between 2013 and 2020, so as to contribute towards the EU's overall aim of a 20% reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. The effort sharing decision is the first of its kind worldwide.

Equipping power plants to store CO₂ underground - report by Chris Davies (ALDE, UK)

Parliament also approved a proposed directive providing for the legal framework for the new carbon dioxide capture and storage technology (CCS). To cut their CO₂ emissions, industrial installations and power plants could in future use this new technology to capture CO₂ and store it "permanently and safely underground" in geological formations. MEPs secured the funding of demonstration projects by ensuring that 300 million ETS allowances will be awarded to large scale CCS projects in the EU. The EHA has followed the dossier to monitor the inclusion of pre combustion CCS plants that produce H₂ as by product in the first demonstration plants.

20% renewable energy in the EU's energy mix by 2020 - report by Claude Turmes (Greens/EFA, LU)

A new directive will lay down mandatory national targets to be achieved by the Member States through promoting the use of renewable energy in the electricity, heating and cooling, and transport sectors in order to ensure that by 2020 renewable energy makes up at least 20% of the EU's total energy consumption. The agreement foresees that by

2020 renewable energy - biofuels, electricity and hydrogen produced from renewable sources - account for at least 10% of the EU's total fuel consumption in all forms of transport. In addition sustainability criteria for biofuels are now defined by this directive

Reducing CO₂ emissions from new cars - report by Guido Sacconi (PES, IT)

A highly anticipated regulation will set emission performance standards for new passenger cars registered in the EU. The compromise backs the Commission's proposed target of an average of 120g of CO₂/km for the whole car industry by 2012, compared to the current levels of 160g/km. The regulation sets an average target of 130g CO₂/km for new passenger cars to be reached by improvements in vehicle motor technology. It will be supplemented by additional measures to achieve a further 10g/km reduction, so as to reach the 120g/km target, through other technical improvements. The compromise introduces a long term target for 2020 for the new car fleet of average emissions of 95 g CO₂/km. Manufacturers will be given interim targets of ensuring that average CO₂ emissions of 65% of their fleets in January 2012, 75% in January 2013, 80% in January 2014 and 100% from 2015, have to comply with each manufacturer's specific CO₂ emissions target. In case the average emissions of CO₂ exceed the targets, manufacturers will have to pay fines.

Less greenhouse gas emissions from fuels - report by Dorette Corbey (PES, NL)

The revised fuel quality directive requires fuel suppliers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by extraction or cultivation, including land-use changes, transport and distribution, processing and combustion of transport fuels (i.e. fossil fuels like petrol, diesel and gas-oil and also biofuels, blends, electricity and hydrogen) of up to 10% by 2020.

4. National News

France

The next call for proposals of the French hydrogen support programme HPAC is scheduled for January 19, 2009

The H-PAC (Hydrogène et Piles à combustible) programme is the follow up programme of the PAN-H programme (Plan d'Action National sur l'Hydrogène et les piles à combustible) that covered the period 2005 à 2008, and financed 73 projects with €85 mln.

Germany

Italy

The Italian government programme "Industria" 2015 to stimulate Innovative industrial projects (PII) received 92 proposals, with a potential total value of €1,7 bln under the topic "Energy efficiency", that is also including funding for hydrogen and fuel cells. More than 40 proposals were received under the topic "Sustainable mobility" (potential value of € 40 mln.). total government funding The final selection is expected the beginning of 2009.

UK

News form the secretariat