

PRESS RELEASE



For immediate release

EHA congratulates Industry Stakeholders and EU officials with the establishment of the EU Joint Undertaking for Fuel Cells and Hydrogen

Brussels, June 2, 2008 – The European Hydrogen Association, EHA, congratulates all industry and research stakeholders and EU officials who have worked together over the last five years to help establish the Joint Undertaking for Fuel Cells and Hydrogen (JU-FCH) on the positive decision of the Competitiveness Council of May 30, 2008. As one of the European Industrial Alliances, that according to the Commission are needed for an effective and wide spread deployment of innovative clean energy technologies, the JU-FCH will stimulate the development of local industry clusters and first commercial markets for hydrogen and fuel cell applications “Made in Europe”.

A rapid and effective integration of hydrogen applications at EU and national level will also need pro-active EU policy support. Many dossiers that are currently being discussed in the EU Parliament and the Council of the EU affect the development of the commercial market for hydrogen and fuel cell applications. The Integrated Pollution and Prevention Control Directive for example does not yet include a facilitated authorisation procedure for small hydrogen reformers that are important components of the first hydrogen infrastructures.

The inclusion of big hydrogen production plants in Phase 3 of the EU Emission Trading System could potentially drive up the price of hydrogen during the deployment efforts of the just approved Joint Undertaking and at a crucial time in building a market for hydrogen as an energy vector. The EHA therefore published a position paper (www.h2euro.org) stressing the need to consider the effect of EU’s proposed legislation on the development of clean energy technologies that are actually contributing to the EU energy and transport policy goals.

The EU Strategic Energy Technology Plan is pointing out in its Technology Map that “...possible competition for primary energy sources for hydrogen production and other sectors of activities indicates a need for synergies and coordination between policies and industrial sector strategies”. In response to this need the EHA has published a short and comprehensive paper “Hydrogen and fuel cells as strong partners for renewable energy systems” to demonstrate that hydrogen could play an important role in achieving the 20% EU renewable objective. Indicating that batteries will play an important role in short distance city transport, the paper stresses that new powertrain solutions as fuel cells will enter the showrooms in the next few years requiring a sustainable and efficient hydrogen supply. The paper is available on the EHA website at www.h2euro.org.

Bringing together as active members 14 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., Ajusa, Air Liquide, Air Products, ENI, the Linde Group, StatoilHydro, Shell Hydrogen), the EHA is actively promoting the integration of hydrogen applications in the EU’s and national transport and energy policy. The EHA is also hosting the secretariat of the European Regions and Municipalities Partnership for hydrogen and fuel cells, HyRaMP, that is gathering 22 regions, fostering the deployment and uptake of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies in Europe.

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