

## August 2008 Overview

### 1. EHA in Action

***EHA submitted contribution to consultation on EU's Second Strategic Energy Review.*** 2008-08-21. The European Commission last July opened a consultation on the Second Strategic Energy Review. In the context of the rapid change in the global energy situation, with the main lines of EU energy policy established, both the European Council (*March 2008 European Council, Presidency conclusions, par.25*) and the European Parliament (*European Parliament Resolution (2007)413 "Towards a common European foreign policy on energy"*) have underlined the importance which they attach to enhancing the energy security of the EU and its Member States and to further developing the external dimension of the EU energy policy. Responding to this, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Strategic Energy Review to be prepared by the Commission and will focus mainly on the related issues of security of supply and external relations. In its contribution the EHA emphasized the need for support and collaboration on more efficient use of conventional fuels in for example fuel cells and the development of energy storage solutions including hydrogen. The consultation closed on September 10, 2008.

***EHA sends amendments to IPPC Directive to EU Parliament rapporteur.*** 2008-08-27. The EHA over the last two years has actively promoting facilitated authorisation of smaller hydrogen generators in the review of the Integrated Pollution and Prevention and Control Directive. The recast of the IPPC Directive is currently being reviewed by the EU Parliament. The EHA sent a paper for an amendment of the proposal (attached), referring to the absence of an indication of the type and/or size of hydrogen production activity that the Directive intends to cover. Because of this the IPPC Directive has already lead and will continue to lead to the imposition by national authorities of an authorization process for small hydrogen production activities that are without significant impact to the environment. This is an unjustified but real obstacle to the commercial development of this otherwise competitive mode of supply. The EHA mentioned also that the development of hydrogen as an energy carrier will involve the small scale distributed production of H<sub>2</sub> from a variety of renewable sources, by electrolysis or reforming. On-site hydrogen production by such means is also expected to be required in relation with road vehicle refuelling. It is therefore crucial for the development of distributed production of hydrogen in Europe to revise the directive's current formulation with regards to hydrogen production, which currently constitutes an unjustified regulatory barrier.

### 2. EHA Promotion

#### Press

- The EHA will feature the FCH Stakeholders event and October 13 Industry and Finance Workshop that the EHA is organising in a two week Euractiv campaign starting the end of September;

## **Membership**

EHA has started its fall membership campaign targeting the new membership categories that were approved in the last Statutes change at the EHA AGM of June 30, i.e. community organisations as well as SME's.

## **Conferences**

- EHA is co-organizing a session at the FCH Stakeholders event on October 13, 2008 in Brussels in collaboration with Fuel Cell Europe and the FCH Instruct office. Programme and registration info at [www.hfpeurope.com](http://www.hfpeurope.com).
- EHA has been invited to the SET Plan Launch in Paris on October 28, 2008 in Paris that will be attended by the French president.
- EHA has been asked to present the HyApproval project at meeting with technicians organised by the Dutch National Agency Senternovem on October 17.
- Executive Meeting of National Hydrogen Associations on 24 September 2008 in Mexico City, Mexico. The theme of the meeting is "The Universal Language of Hydrogen," an interactive session dedicated to identifying and disseminating hydrogen outreach materials across languages. The event will be hosted by the Sociedad Mexicana del Hidrógeno, in conjunction with their VIII Congreso Internacional.

## **3. EHA Taskforces**

### **1. Hydrogen in the City**

The EHA is planning a meeting on September 24 with the Brussels Ministry of Transport and the Brussels Port Authority to discuss a proposal to support a pilot project using fuel cell forklifts in the harbor and to introduce fuel cell vehicles in the Brussels Taxi fleet.

### **2. Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan).**

The EHA is meeting with the responsible officer, for the SET Plan, Stefan Tostmann on September 19 to discuss the installation of clean energy technologies in the European quarter in Brussels. Mr. Tostmann indicated that the Commission is looking to support industry led projects that demonstrate economic and technical feasibility of new energy technologies. The EHA suggested to use the Commission's plan for a sustainable European quarter as a possible project location.

### **3. EHEC**

The EHA has received a proposal of the organisers of the Grove Fuel Cell Symposium, on the organisation of a one-day EHEC type conference as part of the Grove Symposium with the possibility of its own visibility and use of the EHEC (or other) name. The proposal will be discussed by the EHA board on October 13 in Brussels.

### **4. EU 2009**

At the last EHA AGM it was proposed to set up a small taskforce of EHA members to identify key messages for the new EU Parliament, after the elections in June 2009, and for the new EU Commission that will be approved by the new EU Parliament in the autumn of 2009.. EHA members are encouraged to submit their interest to participate in the Taskforce EU 2009 or their ideas to the secretariat. A proposal will be sent to the Board before the next Board meeting on October 13.

### 3 EU News

***Regions Partnership HyRaMP will hold AGM on October 15, 2008. 2008-08-29***

The European Regions and Municipalities Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells will hold its first General Assembly on October 15, 2008 during the launch event of the Joint Undertaking for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in Brussels. The EHA is coordinating the secretariat of HyRaMP. Regions active in hydrogen and fuel cell developments are invited to join the partnership. HyRaMP's mission is to provide the European Regions and Municipalities with a representative body that can be coherent, distinguishable and influential towards the European Joint Technology Initiative for Fuel Cells and Hydrogen (FCH JTI) and all relevant stakeholders and decision makers at both public and private level. The Partnership allows its Members to play a key role in the implementation of strategies that aim for the uptake of FCH technologies and particularly that of the FCH JTI. For more information please contact [secretariat@hy-ramp.eu](mailto:secretariat@hy-ramp.eu).

***NGO Study shows car emission reduction only 1,7% in 2007. 2008-08-28*** Car manufacturers only reduced their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 1.7% over the past year, compared to the average 17% cut they will have to achieve within the next four years to comply with planned European legislation, according to data published by Transport & Environment. German carmaker BMW achieved a 7.3% cut in its fleet's emissions last year alone, while Japanese manufacturer Honda's average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions actually increased by 1.1%. French and Italian manufacturers remain in the best position to meet the 130 grammes of CO<sub>2</sub> per km target by 2012, which was proposed by the European Commission last December and that is supported by the EU Parliament draft report that will be voted on September 8. Last June In June, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Sarkozy, who currently holds the EU Presidency, agreed to allow a "substantial" phasing-in period as well as deviations of up to eight grammes.

***European trade organisations demand more energy efficiency measures. 2008-08-27*** In a letter to EU Energy Commissioner Piebalgs, a group of eight trade associations representing sectors as diverse as building insulation, light-bulb manufacturers and household appliances is calling for greater recognition of efficiency measures in the EU's Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan). The group urges greater recognition of energy-efficiency technologies in the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan), that was presented by the European Commission in November last year. The group "insists that energy efficiency should figure more prominently in the SET-Plan, since it is the area with the most potential for cost effective emission reductions in the medium term". Also the EU Parliament report that was adopted last July on the SET Plan included a bigger emphasis on energy efficiency. The EHA has submitted its interest to join the group.

***UNFCCC kicks off third meeting after Bali 2008-08-21*** Over 1,000 delegates from 160 countries gathered at the opening of the third conference of the International Panel for Climate Change in Accra, Ghana. to "reach agreement on the rules and tools" that developed nations can use to reach their emission reduction target. Among the

proposals is the Japanese-led proposal, backed by the US and Canada for "sectoral targets"—different emissions reduction targets that would be set for individual industry sectors, such as steel or power generation. Disagreements between developed and developing nations - as well as uncertainties about the direction of US climate policy after President Bush leaves office, the economic slowdown and the recent collapse of global trade talks at the WTO – led to slow progress in the discussions. It was decided that forest protection needs to be part of a greenhouse gas reduction deal but that sectoral industry agreements should remain voluntary. A number of developed-state parties to the UNFCCC are in favour of moving towards sectoral approaches within the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which allows rich states to finance clean development projects in poor countries in exchange for emission reduction credits.

***EU Commission launches online access to EU-funded research results*** 2008-08-20. The Commission presented a plan to open access to EU project results to boost research in Europe and to help researchers to maximise their impact by disseminating their results to the widest possible audience. It also hopes to trigger increased business interest for the development and commercialisation of practical applications based on the results of scientific research. The Commission referred to "a fair return for the public on research funded with taxpayers' money". The open access pilot scheme would cover some 20% of the EU's €50 billion budget for the 7th Research Framework Programme from 2007-2013, mainly in the areas of health, energy, environment and ICT. Under the plan peer-reviewed scientific journal articles resulting from EU-funded research would have to be made fully accessible to everyone over the internet, free-of-charge, following an initial embargo period of six to twelve months. The EHA has been lobbying for more access to the EU (publishable) project results and is maintaining a database of the results of projects since 2002.

***MIT Develops New Water-Splitting Catalyst that works at room temperature.*** 2008-08-01 Researchers at MIT, Prof. Daniel Nocera and Dr. Matthew Kanan, have developed a new water-splitting catalyst consisting of cobalt and phosphorous that operates in pH neutral water at room temperature and 1 atm pressure. A report on their discovery was published online 31 July 2008 in the journal *Science*. The cobalt-phosphorous catalyst targets the generation of oxygen gas from water—the more complex of the two water-splitting half-cell reactions required ( $H_2O/O_2$  and  $H_2O/H_2$ ). Another catalyst generates the hydrogen. Although MIT acknowledged that more research is needed, the new catalyst opens a very promising pathway for the development of systems that use artificial photosynthesis to store solar energy on a large scale in the form of  $O_2$  and  $H_2$  for subsequent use in a fuel cell.

***European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), appointed first Board.*** 2008-08-01. The new 18 member Governing Board of the EIT will identify, select and launch the first EU "innovation hubs" before the end of 2009, expected to cover the fields of climate change, renewable energy and ICT. The board's inaugural meeting in Budapest on 15 September 2008 will mark the official start to the agency's operations. Its first tasks will include establishing the institution's overall strategy and selection and launch of the first two or three Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) by the end of 2009. After that, the board will be responsible for the coordination and evaluation

of these virtual centres of scientific collaboration. KICs will bring together departments of universities, companies and research institutes to form an integrated partnership to perform education and innovation activities in inter-disciplinary strategic areas, such as climate change, renewable energy and the next generation of information and communication technologies (ICT).

#### 4. National News

##### **Canada**

***Geoffrey Ballard, the founder of Ballard Fuel Cell systems will be missed.*** 2008-08-02. At the age of 76 one of the pioneers in fuel cell developments in recent years died in Vancouver at the age of 76. Geoffrey Ballard, who started his career with Mobil and the US Army, founded Ballard Research to work on lithium batteries and later on fuel cells built the first fuel cell bus in 1993. After selling the company he later founded General Hydrogen.

##### **France**

The French president Nicolas Sarkozy communicated his plans for a fixed 5,5% VAT on clean vehicles and other clean products.

##### **Germany**

German government announced a plan to establish an International Energy Security University in Berlin. The location should be an old gas storage building at Schonberg and the plan is supported by different multinational energy companies.

##### **Italy**

H2IT is organizing a Post-FCH Stakeholders Seminar on October 16, 2008 in Milan to align Italian hydrogen and fuel cell interests with the JTI Implementation Plan. Representatives of the Governing Board have been invited to present their views on the JTI programme and Italy's contribution. More information on [www.h2it.org](http://www.h2it.org).

##### **Netherlands**

Senternovem in the Netherlands is organising a seminar on October 7, 2008 on Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Applications in practice with presentations of the results of the EU FP6 projects HYPER, handbook for stationary systems and HyApproval, Handbook for Hydrogen Refuelling stations, that will be presented by the EHA. The meeting will be held at Senternovem from 12:00 uur till 17:00 in Amsterdam. For registration please mail your name tel. and email to [EOS@demisec.nl](mailto:EOS@demisec.nl).

##### **Spain**

A Spanish Formula Zero team, EuplatechH2, won the Formula Zero Grand Prix held in Rotterdam. In the finals, the Dutch University of Delft team was defeated by the Spanish with less than two tenths of a second. The battle for third place was in favor of the British. They defeated the Belgian Solvay Umicore Zero Emission Racing Team from Leuven. More info at

## USA

**Barack Obama, announced a 150 bln funding scheme for clean energy technologies 2008-08-28.** "As President, I will tap our natural gas reserves, invest in clean coal technology, and find ways to safely harness nuclear power. I'll help our auto companies re-tool, so that the fuel-efficient cars of the future are built right here in America. I'll make it easier for the American people to afford these new cars. And I'll invest 150 billion dollars over the next decade in affordable, renewable sources of energy - wind power and solar power and the next generation of biofuels; an investment that will lead to new industries and five million new jobs that pay well and can't ever be outsourced."

## News form the secretariat

The EHA website is being updated to a newer system that will allow fast updates of news items and Google Earth positioning of projects. We therefore ask all our members to send us information on local demonstration projects including the address so we can feature them in a map on our homepage.