



## Press Release

Brussels, 23 November 2011

### **How to pave the way towards the deployment of fuel cells and hydrogen technologies is the focus of today's 4<sup>th</sup> Stakeholders general assembly of the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking**

Europe has reached a decisive stage in achieving its decarbonisation objectives by 2050. Hydrogen and fuel cells technologies are key in that respect. To date, significant investments have been made by all stakeholders to progress technological development and to get closer to market entry. Regulatory and adequate financing mechanisms are now needed to overcome the last barriers to deployment and encourage early adopters of these innovative technologies to move forward. With limited financial resources and an investment climate under pressure, concerted action between all stakeholders is more than ever essential to foster a successful integration of fuel cells and hydrogen in the European energy and transport system. The whole sector -industry and research all together- as well as EU and national policy makers will exchange and debate at the Stakeholders' General Assembly on what is needed to bridge the gap between demonstrations to commercial deployment of these clean technologies as well as on the pooling of resources and policies.

The potential of these technologies for economic growth and job creation, notably in relation to international developments is also to be addressed during the event in the Charlemagne building.

Bert De Colvenaer, Executive Director of the FCH Joint Undertaking, stresses: "*These innovative energy technologies call for a totally new mind-set able to address the full innovation cycle: from research to full market integration by better matching industry's needs and customer's expectations; it is therefore particularly relevant for us to show the technology we are supporting since years is becoming reality. It is also time to reflect on what has been achieved so far, since the creation of the Joint Undertaking in 2008 and look to future developments, taking into account the Programme Review and the first interim evaluation of the Public Private Partnership.*"

Pierre-Etienne Franc, Chairman of the Governing Board and of the Industry Grouping, member of the Public-Private Partnership, adds:

*"Market forces alone will not sustain the deployment of these technologies, so that they can compete successfully with the incumbent ones. A strong and determined commitment of public institutions and the private sector together is essential to support the deployment of innovative applications and products able to deliver their energetic and environmental benefits. The whole sector has formalized its technology and financial ambition to contribute to Europe's energy and low carbon objectives by 2020. Discussions on its findings, compiled in a comprehensive report, made public today, will be launched at the FCH JU Stakeholders General assembly."*

## **Background**

The Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking was established on 14 October 2008 as the first illustrative example of a public-private partnership instrument under the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan), technology pillar of the EU's energy and climate policy. The FCH JU aims to speed up the development of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies in Europe to enable their commercialisation as of 2015. Current membership includes the European Commission and 56 companies, from multinationals to SMEs represented by the Industry Grouping (NEW-IG), as well as 66 universities and research institutes, represented by the Research Grouping (N.ERGHY) engaging more than 2000 researchers in the field of fuel cells and hydrogen.

For more information and the Stakeholders General assembly programme, please visit [www.fch-ju.eu](http://www.fch-ju.eu).

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