



PRESS RELEASE

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Secure, competitive, low-carbon – without addressing heat?

Euroheat & Power¹ on the Conclusions on the Energy Roadmap 2050 adopted on 15 June 2012 fail to provide strategic guidance for the number one end-use sector

In today's meeting, EU Member States missed an important opportunity to address obvious shortcomings of the Energy Roadmap 2050, which in its assessment does not sufficiently consider the heating and cooling sector – although the sector accounts for the largest share of final energy consumption in Europe.

While the Energy Roadmap 2050 Communication rightly acknowledges that *“a cost-optimal policy choice between insulating buildings and systematically using waste-heat needs to be found”* and that renewable heating and cooling is vital to decarbonisation, a thorough assessment of and strategy for the heating and cooling sector is absent from the analysis.

The conclusions come as an involuntary confirmation of a warning that the International Energy Agency (IEA) had issued only few days earlier when releasing the 2012 edition of its publication *Energy Technology Perspective: “Heating and cooling remain neglected areas of energy policy and technology, but their decarbonisation is a fundamental element towards a low carbon economy.”* Apparently, this alert remained unnoticed by the delegations in Luxembourg though.

As a new study shows, District Heating and Cooling networks facilitate faster and more cost-effective penetration of local, renewable and surplus energy sources, thereby enabling smooth energy transformation at lower costs (minus 11% as compared to the Energy Roadmap 2050 CPI scenario). The job-creation effect could amount to as much as 8-9 million man-years created in Europe during the 40 year period, due to investments in heat recycling, renewable energy supply, and extended and new heat grids. An opportunity which should be worth to be considered – especially in times of economic crisis!

¹ Euroheat & Power (EHP) is the International Association of District Heating & Cooling, representing the district heating and cooling (DHC) sector in Europe and beyond, covering all aspects related to District Heating and District Cooling and related energy sources and technologies. www.euroheat.org

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