Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Can it really be that another year has gone by already? As President of Euroheat & Power, it is my pleasure to present to you an overview of the highlights of another exciting and eventful year for the association and, more importantly, the European District Energy sector.

One year ago in this same publication, I wrote of the growing interest in heat in general and heat networks in particular among EU policy-makers. In the 12 months since then, we have watched with considerable satisfaction as our efforts to move heat and District Heating closer to the centre of the European policy debate have begun to bear fruit. The upcoming European Commission conference on Heating and Cooling in the European Energy Transition is a practical demonstration of how much can be achieved when the collective energy, imagination and ambition of our industry is harnessed.

Looking to our own organisation, Euroheat & Power continued its journey, establishing a new Board of Directors and adopting a bold new strategy aimed at positioning DHC as a central contributor to the pursuit of a more sustainable energy model for Europe and its cities. On a personal note, and on behalf of the Secretariat, I would like thank all of our members and the new Board in particular for their strong support and engagement over the past year. Any success we may achieve as an organisation is all the more gratifying for the fact that we have earned it together as an industry.

I am very much looking forward to seeing what we can achieve together in 2015. In the meantime, please enjoy this look back at the year that was!

My very best regards,

Frédéric Hug
Euroheat & Power President
Better still, the process of applying the Roadmap’s principles in practice is well underway! Euroheat & Power, through the DHC+ Technology Platform, is coordinating the EU-funded STRATEGO project. The project partners are currently developing a pan-European thermal atlas based on the Heat Roadmap approach, which in turn aims to feed into local authorities’ heat planning. Be on the lookout for it in spring 2015!

More information is available on www.heatroadmap.eu
Wider stakeholder dialogue

Actors in the European political arena are closely interconnected. Constantly enhancing the EHP network is an essential tool for exporting our vision and consolidating our reputation.

Together with our partner organisations within the Heat Coalition, we consistently communicated the role of the heating sector – and our joint efforts paid off. Heating became clearly more visible in key events, such as the European Sustainable Energy Week, and policy papers.

In parallel, Euroheat & Power began to strengthen relations with influential non-governmental organisations and the wider renewable energy community. We are now full-fledged and active members of the “2030 Platform”, an informal gathering of NGOs and progressive industries, connected by their shared ambition to shape the future of European energy and climate policies.

Communicating on sustainable cities also took us closer to local authorities organisations such as the Covenant of Mayors and ICLEI (Global Sustainable Cities Network) Europe, with a series of ongoing joint projects.

GROWING THE NETWORK
DISTRICT HEATING being recognised as key measure for EU energy security

The simplification of state aid rules for District Heating and Cooling, allowing Member States to promote both the deployment of new efficient DHC as well as the upgrading of existing networks through investment aid

The continuous active involvement in defining the future of EU buildings’ policy, including energy performance standards

And those are only the headlines! A more detailed overview of Euroheat & Power’s advocacy work is available on our members section on www.euroheat.org

POSITIONING THE DHC SECTOR FOR SUCCESS

2014 brought a series of significant changes to the European political arena. The European Parliament elections and formation of the new College of Commissioners held the headlines. For Euroheat & Power, this context translated into opportunities to create more visibility and support for sustainable heat.

The team conceived and implemented “Project Hello”, laying the foundations for long-lasting relationships with high-level policy-makers in the new legislature.

But advocacy is more than just building for the future. It’s also about protecting the interests of our members today. 2014 saw a number of regulatory developments that will help make the world a safer place for DHC actors:

- District Heating being recognised as key measure for EU energy security
- The simplification of state aid rules for District Heating and Cooling, allowing Member States to promote both the deployment of new efficient DHC as well as the upgrading of existing networks through investment aid
- The continuous active involvement in defining the future of EU buildings’ policy, including energy performance standards

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Euroheat & Power also continued its fruitful cooperation with the International Energy Agency. 2014 brought a series of IEA publications focusing on heating and highlighting the increasing role of DHC networks in delivering renewable heat to customers in a cost-efficient way. The IEA annual report on the EU energy policy also included within its key recommendations the reference to periodic strengthening and expanding of requirements for “cost-effective, energy-efficient” DHC systems in cities.

Finally, EHP continued its practice of sharing insights and experiences with DHC sector actors from around the world, including the US, China, Korea and Japan.

In a sign of the growing visibility of District Energy within the international climate and energy community, Euroheat & Power was invited to participate in the 2014 UN Climate Summit and various related events. Frédéric Hug and Paul Voss took this opportunity to highlight the essential role our sector has to play in enhancing sustainability and energy security at a global level.

Aiming to support national and municipal government in the development, retrofit or scale up of DHC systems, the UN Environment Programme launched during the Climate Summit the “District Heating in Cities” initiative. Euroheat & Power became part of this platform which brings together cities, academia, industry and financial institutions with a view to harnessing the potential of District Energy to help meet the world’s climate challenge.

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Fuelled by consistent messaging and relationship building, regular presence in the media came as no surprise - from being featured in a Financial Times special report on European Energy, to more specialised EU press such as EurActiv, Europolitics, ENDS Europe environmental news service or European Energy Innovation magazine. It’s great to see DHC hitting the headlines!

COMMUNICATING THE DHC STORY

Euroheat & Power’s use of social media has significantly increased since autumn 2014, all in effort to better communicate to our members and our broader stakeholder community.

#letstalkHEAT! Our LinkedIn profile and Twitter account are updated daily with useful information such as:

- EU policy developments on energy, climate, environment issues
- Links to DHC news, projects, articles
- Updates from various events where EHP team members are present
- Links to EHP initiatives, press releases, news items

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What’s next?
Mark your agenda also for the 37th Euroheat & Power Congress on 27 and 28 April 2015 in Tallinn, Estonia. We’re looking forward to seeing you there!

www.ehpcongress.org

60 years of HOT and COOL Stories

The 2014 EHP conference was an opportunity to celebrate Euroheat & Power’s 60th birthday. This year’s conference focused on policy and market updates, finance and investment, and the EU agenda for heat and brought together over 150 key leaders in the field to provide them with an in-depth look into the current status of District Energy and its prospects for the future.

Our events provide an unparalleled opportunity for networking and exchange of ideas and experiences between different industrial sectors (associations, utilities, operators, manufacturers etc.) and policy-makers. At EHP, we cherish our role as the platform that helps unite the DHC industry and connect its many players in pursuit of a brighter future.
These new and exciting challenges have the potential to make 2015 one of the most important in the rich history of our organisation. Whatever the tasks in front of us, it is hugely gratifying and encouraging to know that we will confront them together, united in our diversity and driven forward by a common sense of purpose and the shared conviction that district heating and cooling can help deliver a better energy transition for Europe and Europeans.

We can’t wait to get started!

Contact Paul Voss at the Euroheat & Power office to shape Europe’s DHC future together.

LOOKING AHEAD

The New Year will see a step-change in the EU policy arena. While 2014 was dominated by questions of institutional change and high-level discussions about targets, general frameworks and principles, 2015 will be marked by a shift towards more concrete questions of implementation and implications for specific sectors, not least heating and cooling.

This will bring Euroheat & Power into a new phase of our advocacy efforts in Brussels. Instead of simply fighting for attention and recognition as a sector with something to offer, we expect the opportunity – and the obligation – to begin to articulate more precisely what we can deliver and which specific policy measures are required.
Euroheat & Power (EHP) is the international association representing the District Heating & Cooling (DHC) sector. DHC uses energy which otherwise would be wasted and renewable energies to provide comfort to buildings.

The association unites members from over 30 countries and represents the interests of the sector at the political level towards the European Union and international institutions.