

## **Heat Pumps to drastically reduce EU consumers' heating and cooling costs and to massively contribute to the EU's target of 20% renewable energy**

**Brussels, 05 June 2009:** Today the EU Directive on the Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources was published in the Official Journal, thereby effectively turning the text into EU legislation. This long awaited Directive recognises for the first time under EU law the potential of aerothermal and hydrothermal energy as sources of renewable energy.

Under the new legislation, part of the so-called Climate Change Package, adopted in December 2008, all EU Member States should increase their share of renewable energy in final energy demand in an effort to boost the EU's total share to 20% by 2020.

This new legislation recognises the potential of heat pumps using aerothermal energy (stored in the air), geothermal energy (stored in the ground), or hydrothermal energy (stored in standing water) in reducing the energy consumption in the EU, especially in the building sector.

Karl Ochsner, Chair of the European Heat Pump Association (EHPA) commented **"Most stakeholders will benefit from the new Directive: the individual is encouraged to use state of the art renewable technologies for heating and cooling at lowest possible costs, the national economies by increased local demand for such technologies and the national governments by the opportunity to reach their individual targets in the burden sharing agreement in a cost-efficient way."** Contrary to most other renewable energy technologies, heat pumps can be used virtually everywhere: in example by the industry, in district heating and cooling, for farms, for individual and remotely located houses, and for building blocks in cities.

Friedrich Busch, Director General of the European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE), added **"Today is a great day for the environment. EU law finally recognises heat pumps as a renewable energy technology, alongside windmills and solar panels.** But today is also a great day for consumers, as **the use of heat pumps in houses will drastically reduce heating and cooling costs.** Whereas before consumers would opt for technologies with lower investment costs at the start, but with high annual running costs, financial incentives from national governments will now result in an uptake of heat pumps, which have extremely low usage costs".

End.



For further information, please contact:

**Friedrich Busch**

Tel: +32 2 739 49 01

European Partnership for Energy and the Environment

or

E-mail: [secretariat@epeeglobal.org](mailto:secretariat@epeeglobal.org) / Website: [www.epeeglobal.org](http://www.epeeglobal.org)

**Thomas Nowak**

European Heat Pump Association

Tel: +49 211 260 61 57

E-mail: [thomas.nowak@gmail.com](mailto:thomas.nowak@gmail.com) / Website: <http://ehpa.fiz-karlsruhe.de>

### **The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment**

Formed in September 2000, the European Partnership for Energy and the Environment, EPEE, is a broad-based grouping of responsible companies, national associations and European associations active in the European heating, cooling and refrigeration industry.

14A, rue du Luxembourg

B- 1000 Brussels

Tel: +32-2 732 70 40 / fax : +32-2 732 71 76

E-mail: [Secretariat@epeeglobal.org](mailto:Secretariat@epeeglobal.org)

Website: [www.epeeglobal.org](http://www.epeeglobal.org)

### **The European Heat Pump Association**

EHPA was established in the year 2000 as a European Economic Interest Group to promote awareness and proper deployment of heat pump technology in the European market place for residential, commercial and industrial applications. EHPA aims to provide technical and economic input to European, national and local authorities in legislative, regulatory and energy efficiency matters. All activities are aimed at overcoming market barriers and dissemination of information in order to speed up market development of heat pumps for heating, cooling and hot water production.

Rue du congrès 35

B-1000 Brussels

phone: +32 22 27 11 16 / fax: +32 22 18 31 41

mobile: +49 176 63 20 11 40

mail: [thomas.nowak@ehpa.org](mailto:thomas.nowak@ehpa.org)

<http://www.ehpa.org>