

## Conference

### 11 to 12 April 2007, Fair Energy Round Table



A two day Round Table was held in the European Parliament 11 to 12 April 2007 on energy efficiency and climate change and their impact on the world's population in the near and distant future. Issues related to how Europe and the rest of the world must react in order to face the acute problem of global warming, greenhouse gas emissions and scarce resources of combustibles were presented by recognised speakers from various organisations, companies and institutions.

Hans-Gert Pöttering, President of the European Parliament, welcomed the participants and the audience to the first session - titled *Climatise Yourope* - by stressing the fact that people can no longer neglect climate change, stating that it is a priority and a moral obligation for all of us to act. The European Union has the preparedness and dynamic in order to show action and to be a role model for the rest of the world. In a possible third industrial revolution, a functioning European internal market on renewable energy sources and distribution could create a competitive advantage for the continent. Pöttering continued by stressing that the industrial world has to show solidarity towards third world countries, which are in fact suffering the most from climate change.

Hollywood star and environmental activist Martin Sheen made a brief appearance at the Round Table, focusing on the need for immediate action (particularly in the USA) to counter global warming and the need of change in our own behaviour.

Author Jeremy Rifkin gave a speech on what the world can expect if no action is taken soon. According to Rifkin, a solution to the problems of global warming and greenhouse gases could be hydrogen, a technique already existing in aerospace science. With the peak in oil production soon a fact (estimated 2010-2035), hydrogen could revolutionise the world's energy provision and even reshape the geopolitical map of the world. Rifkin also stressed the importance of Europe leading the way on combating climate change.

The first day of the Round Table continued with the highlight event; the Energy Globe Award gala in the European Parliament.

The themes of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power dominated the second session of the Round Table - titled *Cool energy for Yourope* - with speakers underlining the need for political attention, economic incentives and subsidies from the EU member states in order to develop a functioning market of renewable energy.

The two sessions were followed by a short discussion among the panel experts and MEPs. Nuclear power and efficient use of current resources were two topics that caused some debate. The Fair Energy Round Table was concluded with closing remarks from former Commissioner Franz Fischler who emphasised the ambition and potential of the EU when it comes to setting goals for future work on energy and climate. Fischler rounded off by saying that the solutions to climate change problems are to be found not within the technical domain, but within our minds.



Samuel Ulfgard

## Host



Committee on Industry,  
Research and Energy, ITRE

### Links

<http://www.energyglobe.info>

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/itre\\_home\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/itre_home_en.htm)

[http://www.ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy\\_transport/index\\_en.html](http://www.ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/index_en.html)

<http://www.erec-renewables.org/>

more information [here](#)