

**World Sustainable Energy Days 2012**  
**Energy-Efficiency-Watch Conference, 1 March 2012**  
**Event Report**

The Energy-Efficiency-Watch Conference (EEW2 conference) organised on 1 March 2012 at the World Sustainable Energy Days 2012 in Austrian Wels looked at energy efficiency from regional, national and European perspective. **Jan Geiss** (EUFORES) briefly presented the Energy Efficiency Watch project (EEW) within which the conference was organised.

**Rudi Anschober** (Regional Minister for Energy, Upper Austria) opened the EEW2 conference by asking: „Is it still necessary to organise an EE conference? Here, in Upper Austria it seems very logical to implement EE. But looking at other regions and European countries, it is still very much necessary.“

**Claude Turmes** (MEP) continued by presenting the new proposal for Energy Efficiency Directive which will replace the Energy Services Directive and Combined Heat and Power Directive. According to him, effective legislation plays a crucial role in bringing Europe on track. The new Energy Efficiency Directive will provide an overall umbrella to the European energy efficiency policy. Claude Turmes added that improving energy efficiency means improving Europe’s competitiveness. Triggering investments is what the new piece of legislation wants to achieve. He explained the system on the example of the German KfW which had a co-financing ratio of 1:4 in 2006.

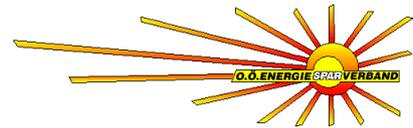
The European Commission has put several mechanisms in place in order to support reaching the goal of 20% of energy savings by 2020. **Robert Nuij** (European Commission) presented the funding possibilities currently available (cohesion policy funds, Intelligent Energy Europe, ELENA facility, European Energy Efficiency Fund) as well as those in preparation (within the next multiannual financial framework for 2014-2020 and the Horizon 2020). **Gordon Sutherland** (EACI) supplemented this picture by presenting the Intelligent Energy Europe programme of the European Commission. The IEE programme was set up to meet the 2020 objectives by helping policies to deliver. Such programmes are indeed crucial to successful implementation of policies. He added that „we have one of the most progressive legislation worldwide but without being put in place it is worthless.“ That is what the IEE programme attempts to do.

**Vera Höfele** (Wuppertal Institute) presented the preliminary results of the screening of the National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEEAPs), which is part of the EEW project. The NEEAPs screening complements the results of the EU-wide survey on the implementation of the NEEAPs in upcoming national reports. At the conference, she commented on the form and content of some of the NEEAPs analysed. The length of the NEEAPs differs from 14 pages to several hundred pages. This suggests how different the NEEAPs are perceived by the EU Member States. Some of them see the NEEAPs as

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a comprehensive strategy tool and others use them as a reporting tool to show how they comply with the ESD directive. The NEEAPs should rather play the role of a strategic document, Vera added.

The key project output, the 27 national reports on the implementation of the energy efficiency policies, will be released in the summer 2012. The reports will highlight strength and weakness of the national energy efficiency policies, their implementation, identify policy gaps and give policy recommendations.

Subsequently, **Christiane Egger** (ESV) presented the survey. She explained that the results are to be seen as perceptions of experts on the progress in energy efficiency policy implementation in their home countries since 2007. So far, 665 surveys have been completed. Currently, the second round of the interviews with selected and recognised experts in every Member State is ahead of the project team. She presented few slides with the preliminary results to give the participants an idea about what to expect in the national reports. The survey shows that some countries have a long tradition in EE policies and some countries are newcomers in the field, Christiane commented.

**Katarína Korytárová** (Ministry of Economy, Slovakia) continued by introducing the energy savings policy of the Slovak Republic. Current targets are being achieved and energy intensity is decreasing. However, energy efficiency targets for 2016 and 2020 are conditioned by establishing support mechanisms with stable financing. This is according to Katarína inevitable for further implementation of energy efficiency measures. Similarly, **Jean-Sébastien Broc** (École des Mines de Nantes, France) emphasised the need for stable funding. Beside the funding dilemma, he brought up several other issues such as transformation of the refurbishment market, setting training for building companies and ensuring the performance.

As presented by **Gerhard Dell** (O.Ö.Sparverband, Austria), 65% of the energy savings in Upper Austria are generated by the savings in the building shell. Despite high savings achieved, total energy consumption increased a bit. Gerhard therefore emphasised how important it is to include absolute savings in the new EED. According to him, next steps should be taken in the following areas: development of energy efficiency laws on national and regional level, expanding information and advice programmes, exemplary role of the public sector and measures in the transport field.

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### What is Energy Efficiency Watch 2 (EEW2)?

Following the Energy Services Directive (ESD), the Member States are obliged to deliver the National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEEAPs) to the European Commission in 2007, 2011 and 2014. Though many of the NEEAPs submitted in 2007 and 2011 were quite progressive, there is a huge lack in implementation of energy efficiency measures on the national level.

Energy Efficiency Watch 2 is a project under the Intelligent Energy Europe programme running from September 2010 to August 2013 and is coordinated by EUFORES. Its main objective is to facilitate implementation of the ESD across the EU. To this end, EEW2 attempts to activate, consult and interface core networks (including local and regional levels), do surveys, NEEAPs screening and analyse broad stakeholders input with regard to implementation. It also aims at enforcing good practice exchange, raising awareness and encouraging the discussion among networks, industry, politicians and experts. The expected outcome is a European and national energy efficiency policy of a better quality and an experience exchange with the aim of filling implementation gaps.

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