

EREF

European Renewable Energies Federation

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EREF calls on Eurelectric to change towards ambition and sustainability in energy management – Disappointing scenarios may be stumble block for Europe to meet its goals for security of supply and climate protection

EREF, the voice of independent power producer from all renewable sources certainly welcomes that EURELECTRIC today published its “commitment” for a “carbon-neutral EU power sector by 2050” and EREF understands this as invitation for an open debate.

But the message of this commitment so far is yet again a testimony of weakness, wrong assumptions, lack of courage and certain despotism when it comes to the safeguard of outdated and unsustainable technologies, meaning nuclear and fossil energy. “What is a commitment of the European utilities worth when its pledge stays far below the European energy agenda for 2050?” asks Dr. Nikos Vassilakos, President of EREF.

EURELECTRIC still sidelines renewable energy and estimates an increase of renewable in primary energy requirements to only 14.2 % in its best scenario outline for 2020 and only 19.8 % in 2050. Nikos Vassilakos: “Compared with the actual success of renewable energy in EU countries with strong and reliable support mechanism which reached two digit number growths within less than 10 years, this is a declaration of failure of the incumbent industry. The European Union is committed to increase its energy share from renewable to 20 % by 2020, a message which is belittled by EURELECTRIC with its scenario.”

The scenario does not at all structure a pathway towards consumption neutrality or minus consumption of energy of whole sectors such as the household sector. Households, large part of transport and also the commercial sector can become energy consumption neutral or energy plus by 2030, especially in view of the wide range of new buildings and smart technologies and flexible solutions based on renewable energy combinations of different scales. “There is a whole new world outside the ring fenced existence of EURELECTRIC and we hope to encourage the incumbent utilities to overcome this barrier and to really move towards demand side management in good cooperation with the independent power producers”, underlined Dr. Vassilakos.

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