

Hermann Scheer, member of the German Parliament

Press release: The establishment of IRENA draws closer

Scheer: "A gap will be closed"

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The establishment of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is drawing ever closer. Next week, representatives of the participating countries will meet for a workshop in Berlin to agree the next steps in the preparatory process.

The main objective of IRENA should be to foster and promote the adoption of renewable energy worldwide.

Speaking in Berlin on Tuesday, Hermann Scheer, a Member of the German Bundestag, President of EUROSOLAR and Chairman of the World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE), explained: "IRENA will close a gap in the international institutional architecture in the energy sector. With IRENA, we are taking a major step whose global significance, in terms of overcoming the world's energy problems, is still underrated by many people, just as renewable energies themselves were underrated 30 years ago."

EUROSOLAR and the World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE) have been the main driving force behind the initiative to establish an International Renewable Energy Agency since 2001. The German Bundestag and the International Parliamentary Forum on Renewable Energies have also taken a number of initiatives to push the process forward.

Last Thursday (19 June 2008), IRENA featured on the agenda of the German Bundestag. In his speech (included in the minutes rather than being delivered orally), Hermann Scheer (SPD) said: "IRENA's macroeconomic and macropolitical significance as a driving force for the worldwide proliferation of renewable energies and the opportunities they offer for the future is overwhelming and wide-ranging. Germany is ideally placed to take up this initiative. From the Electricity Feed-in Act in 1991 to the Renewable Energy Sources Act in 2000, we have become an international model in the ever more important field of renewable-generated electricity, both in the development of renewables technology and industry and in these energies' broad application."

In a speech (also included in the minutes), Maria Flachsbarth, Member of the Bundestag (CDU/CSU), said: "With IRENA, we will create an organisation which will act as an independent institution to promote the equal status and development of renewable energies." Hans-Josef Fell, Member of the Bundestag (ALLIANCE 90/THE GREENS), said: "Implementation of the proposal for an International Renewable Energy Agency, which EUROSOLAR has championed for the past decade, is long overdue."

The motion on the establishment of an International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), tabled jointly by the SPD, CDU/CSU and the Greens, was adopted by the German Bundestag. The founding conference is planned for the end of this year.

The speeches can be found in the stenographic record of the German Bundestag at:  
<http://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btp/16/16169.pdf>