

## **General introduction (Arthouros Zervos, EWEA)**

Dear friends, I am delighted to welcome you to this first steering committee meeting of the European Wind Energy Technology Platform. This is the first official meeting of the TPWind after its launch the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2006 and constitutes the first real gathering of the platform. From now onwards, we should be able to develop a clear agenda with concrete tasks and deliverables.

Let me start by thanking the European Commission for the support that she has provided us with during the whole process, and also for letting us use this official building today.

As you know, since the design of the platform we have followed the strict procedures that will hopefully allow us to become a “formal” technology platform. This refers to the launch for expressions of interest of the steering committee, the selection process and the preparation of the terms of reference.

I assume that the support given by the European Commission in the funding of the secretariat, its involvement in the selection of the STC members, its active participation in both the launch event

(Piebalgs attended it) and this first meeting are clear indicators that we are on the good track.

I would like to be brief and will simply recall you the main objectives for this meeting and the main points of the agenda that will be discussed.

The objectives of this first steering committee meeting are:

- (1) To introduce each other and to recall the scope of the European wind energy technology platform.
- (2) To agree on the terms of reference that will govern the steering committee, including the rules that apply for the selection of the working groups, the mirror states group, the periodicity of the meetings, the voting procedures, etc.
- (3) To select and vote the chairperson and the two vice-chairpersons of the steering committee.
- (4) To have a first discussion on the working groups that can be launched in the near future.
- (5) To prepare our contribution to the hearing that will take place tomorrow at the EC premises about the Strategic Energy Technology Plan.
- (6) To decide on the next steps of the steering committee (venue for the next meeting, etc.).

You will see that the agenda reflects these aims.

- In the first place, we would like to hear a short introduction from you all. I know that most of us already know each other, but it is good for the purpose of the platform that we can briefly present our expertise and see how to make the best use of it.
- Then, our policy director will recall you the structure of the TPWind and the main working groups that will have to be created. The main discussion will be around the “terms of reference” that you have received and which will constitute our rules for functioning in the future.
- The third point in the agenda refers to the election of the executive committee: the chairperson and the two vicechairpersons.
- After lunch, our new TPmanager, Nicolas Fichaux, will explain what the role of the secretariat is.
- Afterwards, a first discussion of the working groups will be initiated. The objective is not to establish the working groups today, but to agree on certain topics and on the next steps to be followed.
- At 3.00 o’clock we will have the opportunity to hear a short presentation from a European Commission representative on the Strategic Energy Technology Plan that the Commission intends to prepare between now and the end of this year. The Technology Plan was proposed at the Strategic Energy Review on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January and has been approved in the Spring Council. It is aimed at better co-ordinating the efforts of key energy sectors that can contribute to achieving a better energy supply in the medium to long term. The wind energy sector, as part of that future, will have its own chapter, and

the Commission has asked for our input. Due to logistic problems, they want to have a small representation of 8 people maximum and this is why, in the absence of an operational steering committee, we have pre-selected some people who were available. In any case, we will be discussing today the input for tomorrow and we will inform you on the conclusions afterwards.

- Finally, we will decide on the next steps of the STC and the next meetings to take place.

As you can see, the agenda is already pretty full, and so we'd better start working now. I wish you an interesting and fruitful day.