EWEC2009, 17 March 2009
European Wind Energy Technology Platform – implementing the SRA
Summary

The TPWind session, attended by approximately 100 participants, was opened and chaired by Henning Kruse, chairman of the Platform. Henning Kruse presented the latest TPWind brochure, which outlines the results of the 3rd General Assembly (held in October 2008) and presents the next steps of the Platform.

TPWind is an R&D network of wind energy experts, composed of several Working Groups focusing on specific research areas and managed by a Steering Committee (with the support of a Secretariat based in Brussels).

Further to that, a Member States Mirror Group (MSMG) acts as the link between the Platform and EU Member States. **Susanna Widstrand**, chairperson of the MSMG**,** explained that the Mirror Group comes together in three different compositions: R&D coordination, the future role of the Mirror Group and Environment. She also stressed that the Mirror Group supports collaboration with other Technology Platforms as well as the creation of national TPs.

Filippo Gagliardi, TPWind Project Manager, presented the activities of TPWind, which published its Strategic Research Agenda / Market Development Strategy (SRA/MDS) in July 2008. This document identifies the R&D needs and priorities of wind energy operators and is structured around 5 priorities: wind conditions, wind turbine technology, wind energy integration, offshore deployment and European research infrastructure, which is a transversal action line.

The implementation of the SRA is now more important than ever, especially in view of the EU's 20% binding target for renewable energy production by 2020. To this purpose, TPWind members identified 45 project ideas to transform the SRA into reality. These projects are described in an implementation plan, which will be finalized in 2009. Public funding from the EU and Member States can cover up to 50% of project costs, therefore a firm commitment from the industry will be essential in order to implement these projects.

Further to that, TPWind would be keen in having the European Wind Initiative (EWI) officially launched before the end of 2009. The EWI was announced for the first time by the European Commission in 2007, in the framework of the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan).

Josep Prats from Alstom-Ecotècnia (Spain) presented the EWI, which should become one of the most important instruments for supporting the wind energy sector in the years to come and for ensuring its contribution in meeting the EU's 2020 targets. The EWI's objectives for the decade 2020-2030 are:

- To ensure the European technology leadership on- and offshore.
- To make wind power the most competitive energy source on the market onshore by 2020 and offshore by 2030.

SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

- To enable the required large-scale deployment and grid integration of wind energy offshore and onshore and high penetration levels in final EU electricity consumption of:

The EWI estimates a combined private and public budget of € 4 - 6 bn.

Stefan Tostmann of DG TREN in the European Commission explained that the SET-plan should be seen as a method for achieving the EU's 2020 targets (i.e. reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20%, ensure 20% of renewable energy sources in the EU energy mix and reduce global primary energy demand by 20%).
If the industry can make its needs clear in order to achieve these objectives, it will have better chances of receiving adequate funding from national programmes and the EC. The future SET-plan information system will include figures on private and national funding.

Takis Chaviaropoulos from CRES (Greece) explained that TPWind is aware of the fact that it should expand its activities and role in order to become a true EU flagship and contribute to the achievement of the EU's 2020 energy targets. TPWind will therefore finalise before the end of 2009 a detailed action plan on its next steps, which will focus on:

- Projects: development of the EWI, implementation of the projects included in the SRA implementation plan and establishment of a permanent R&D forum;
- Dissemination, through a more effective use of the website and an increased participation to external events;
- Cooperation actions with relevant stakeholders (TSOs, DSOs, other Technology Platforms, international organisations and partners of R&D projects in the sector).

Concluding the session, two presentations from relevant Technology Platforms were delivered. Firstly, **Pier Nabuurs of KEMA (Netherlands)** presented the SmartGrids.
The electricity grids were developed 40-60 years ago and exchange between countries is growing. Grids upgrading is therefore necessary to allow the integration of a larger share of renewables. Further to that, the grid layout should depend on which renewable energy source will develop where.
Secondly, **Pietro Gimondo of Centro Svilupppo Materiali (Italy)** presented ESTEP (TP on steel), which was originally founded in 2002 by the industry, without EC involvement. Its SRA was published in 2004. Synergies with TPWind could be found in the development of more reliable gear boxes, in the study of new maintenance strategies and in turbine height.