

Joint Statement on the launch of the European Wind, Solar, Electricity Grids and Carbon Capture and Storage Industrial Initiatives

The European Commission, the Presidency of the European Union, the co-Chairs and Members of the SET-Plan Steering Group, and high-level representatives of the Industry launched in Madrid on 3 June 2010 the first four industrial initiatives of the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan). The European Industrial Initiatives launched were: 'Wind'; 'Solar'; 'Electricity Grids'; and 'Carbon Capture and Storage'.

They agreed the following joint statement:

"Innovation in energy technology is vital to meet our European energy and climate goals, to reduce the cost of decarbonisation through technology learning and to put EU business on the right track to reap the growth and jobs of global decarbonisation. To strengthen the links between research and innovation and with the strong support of the Council, the Parliament, industry and the research community, the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) is our shared policy to accelerate the development of low-carbon technologies leading to their mass market take-up. It is the technology pillar of the European Union energy and climate change policy. Its effective implementation will put the EU in the pathway to achieve its goals for 2020 and enable the transition to a low carbon economy by 2050. More concretely, the European Industrial Initiatives (EIIs) of the SET-Plan will foster research and innovation, bringing together industry, the research community, the Member States and the Commission in risk-sharing, public-private partnerships aiming at the rapid development of key energy technologies at the European level.

Today, we are launching the first four European Industrial Initiatives of the SET-Plan: 'Wind', 'Solar', 'Electricity Grids' and 'Carbon Capture and Storage'. In doing so we have agreed, on: (i) Technology Roadmaps (2010-2020) including concrete action plans to develop the technologies and improve their competitiveness, (ii) Implementation Plans which focus on the priority actions for 2010-2012 and (iii) a light and non-bureaucratic governance structure that involves all of us while preserving full sovereignty over the use of our own resources.

The launch of these EIIs has all-round support. We all commit to make all best efforts to support the activities described in the Technology Roadmaps and the priority actions of the Implementation Plans. We will also enhance our cooperation in these areas, establish specific monitoring and knowledge sharing arrangements and an open exchange of information, with the support of SETIS - the Information System of the SET-Plan.

In the Commission's Communication 'Investing in the development of low carbon technologies (SET-Plan)', adopted on 7 October 2009, the total public and private

investment needed in Europe over the next 10 years for these sectors has been estimated as €37 bn. We all agree that given the scale of the efforts required, the public and private funding will need to increase, as and when possible, as stated in the Council conclusions of 12 March 2010. The effort already made in 2009 and 2010 for 'Wind' and 'Carbon Capture and Storage' through the European Energy Programme for Recovery with a € 1.6 bn investment is a step in the right direction.

On the industry side, we commit to contribute actively to the activities and actions proposed in the Technology Roadmaps and Implementation Plans. In addition, we agree to engage private resources and best efforts to substantially increase our investment in research.

We, the Members of the Steering Group, commit to support an increased coordination of Member States' programmes and procedures to ensure effective contributions to these initiatives and to evaluate and monitor actions along the lines of the Technology Roadmaps and Implementation Plans. We agree to engage on a voluntary basis in a strategic planning and implementation process to maximise the effective use of scarce public resources.

We, the European Commission, commit to focus the existing EU research, technology and innovation programmes in the field of energy to support the SET Plan initiatives, taking due account of the activities and actions identified in the Technology Roadmaps and the Implementation Plans.

Today's launch of the first four European Industrial Initiatives provides us with a powerful means of boosting research and demonstration efforts in key industrial sectors. The EII Teams that we have set up together in each area will be sufficiently empowered to deliver results. Only together, strengthening and improving the coherence of our research effort, can we bring about a step change towards security of energy supply and decarbonisation and put our industry at the forefront of global markets."