

17 July 1998

## Environment Policy is Economic Policy is Environment Policy

### ***Business Associations demand Priority for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency***

Vienna/Graz, 17-7-98 - Environment ministers should interfere stronger with economic policy. This is a demand of European business associations presented in a resolution to the conference of EU environment ministers which starts today in Graz. The Austrian Renewable Energy Association BVEE and six other Austrian, German and European business associations signed the resolution. They refer in it to the big chances renewable energy and energy efficiency represent for the whole national economy, for climate protection, and for employment. Therefore the associations demand economic policy conditions that support climate friendly renewable energy technologies. Apart from an ecological tax reform and the abolition of 'perverse' subsidies for coal, oil, and fossil gas the association i.a. demand priority regulations and fair feed in tariffs for electricity from biomass, small hydro, wind, and solar photovoltaics. "Numerous business companies are ready with products and services for a renewable energy system. They could - as the EU white paper confirms - turn climate protection into a profitable business and in addition create 900.000 new jobs", says Ulfert Höhne of BVEE. "But still our economy is determined by laws that often place modern energy technologies at a disadvantage." Höhne: "As representatives of business companies with a clear vision for the future we appeal to the European Union's environment ministers to interfere stronger with economic policy to promote and support renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, and to realise what the EU summit in May stated: Environment policy is energy policy and vice versa."

#### *Further Information:*

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#### *Remarks:*

The three page resolution is presented in German and English. You can get it from BVEE or click [here](#) for the english text.

#### *The resolution is supported by the following business organisations:*

- BVEE (Austrian Renewable Energy Association)
- European Business Council for a Sustainable Energy Future - e5 ( <http://www.e5.org> )
- EPIA (European Photovoltaic Industry Association)
- ÖVFK (Austrian Small Hydro Power Association)
- BWE (German Wind Energy Association)
- Austrian Biomass Association.

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