



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy



25.09.09

Commissioner Piebalgs takes part in the inauguration of the state of the art Solar Power Plant in Seville



On the 23rd of September Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs participated in the inauguration of Europe's largest central receiver solar power plant near Seville, Spain, in the presence of King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia. The new plant called PS20 will produce enough clean electricity to supply 10,000 homes, and will prevent the emission of approximately 12,000 tons of CO₂ per year into the atmosphere.

Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) plants are systems that use solar radiation as a high-temperature energy source to produce electricity out of heat like other thermal power plants. The EU has been giving support to this technology for more than ten years and has enabled research activities, to develop, to validate, to demonstrate and to disseminate various CSP technologies. Under the 5th and 6th Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development, the EU contributed about €25 million to research projects in CSP technologies. This contribution has had a leveraging effect leading to a significant additional private investment that all in all amounts to about ten times the investments from the European Research Programme.

The PS20 plant built and operated by Abengoa Solar has an installed capacity of 20 MW. It is the second commercial plant of its kind, completed after the PS10 experience. PS20 features a number of technological improvements compared to PS10.



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The European Union's energy and climate package formally adopted in April this year contains the targets of 20% greenhouse gas emission reduction compared to 1990 and a 20% renewable energy share by 2020. The contribution of a wide range of technologies, including solar power, will be needed to achieve these targets.

COM (2009) 482 - Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on transportable pressure equipment.

The transport of pressure equipment, e. g. tanks, receptacles, drums and cylinders, constitutes an important area of the transport of dangerous goods. On 29 April 1999 the Council adopted a Directive on transportable pressure equipment (1999/36/EC). This Directive ensures a high level of transport safety for transportable pressure equipment whilst allowing their free movement and use on the European transport market through common norms for their design, construction and subsequent checks.

For the technical requirements, the existing Directive 1999/36/EC refers to Directives 94/55/EC and 96/49/EC, which have been repealed by Directive 2008/68/EC with effect of 1 July 2009. Directive 2008/68/EC incorporates into Community legislation the requirements contained in international agreements on transport of dangerous goods by road.

The second key objective of the proposal concerns the use of the equipment itself for transport operations in the internal market. Whereas the existing Directive 1999/36/EC already ensures the equipment's free movement and use, recent developments in Community legislation relating to the marketing of products on the single European market, i.e. the "*New Legislative Framework*" Regulation No 765/2008/EC and Decision No 768/2008/EC, should be taken into account. The "*New Legislative Framework*" sets a general framework which should, wherever possible, be applied across all industrial sectors.

The proposal can be found here:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2009:0482:FIN:EN:PDF>

COM (2009) 480 - Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion, by the Commission, of the Agreement for co-operation between the European Atomic Energy Community and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil in the field of fusion energy research

Directives for the Commission to conduct negotiations on an Agreement (the "Agreement") for co-operation between the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) and the



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Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil, in the field of fusion energy research were approved by the Council on 22 July 2008.

The directives were based on a draft Agreement, which was discussed at the level of the Joint Working Party on research and Atomic Questions prior to the approval of the directives as a point A Decision by the Council. No substantial change has been made to this draft Agreement during the negotiations.

The Commission proposes that the Council adopts, in application of the second paragraph of article 101 of the Treaty establishing the EAEC, the annexed draft proposal for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion, by the Commission, of an Agreement for co-operation between the European Atomic Energy Community and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil in the field of fusion energy research.

The proposal can be found here:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2009:0480:FIN:EN:PDF>