

## EU expands the definition of renewable energy sources to aerothermal and hydrothermal energy sources

**Brussels, 17 December 2008:** Today the European Parliament adopted the eagerly awaited EU Directive on the Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources. The final compromise text recognises for the first time aerothermal and hydrothermal energy as sources of renewable energy under EU law.

Under the new legislation each member state should increase its share of renewable energies.

The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE), the voice of the heating, cooling and refrigeration industry in Europe, is delighted that the use of aerothermal energy (energy in the air) and hydrothermal energy (energy stored in water) will now be promoted as part of the new EU policy on renewable energy sources.

Frans Hoorelbeke, Chairman of EPEE, commented “The potential of aerothermal and hydrothermal energy sources is enormous and can greatly contribute to Member States’ success in reaching their renewable energy targets of 20% by 2020.”

Geothermal, aerothermal and hydrothermal energy is currently exploited using heat pumps, which were recognised as such “renewable energy technologies” by the EU, alongside wind turbines and solar panels.

End.

For further information, please contact:

**Friedrich Busch or Darcy Nicolle**

European Partnership for Energy and the Environment

Tel: 02-739 47 35/ 0473 705 717

E-mail: [secretariat@epeeglobal.org](mailto:secretariat@epeeglobal.org) / Website: [www.epeeglobal.org](http://www.epeeglobal.org)

**EPEE**

14A, rue du Luxembourg, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Tel : +32-2 732 70 40 / Fax : +32-2 732 71 76

E-Mail : [Secretariat@epeeglobal.org](mailto:Secretariat@epeeglobal.org) / [www.epeeglobal.org](http://www.epeeglobal.org)