

INVITATION

Meeting Our Climate and Energy Challenges: A European Community for Renewable Energies

A key player in any future international climate change agreement, the European Union has agreed to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020, with a decrease of up to 30% promised if other countries follow suit. In addition to increasing energy saving and efficiency, the EU has made a commitment to raise its share of renewable energies, currently at 8.5%, to 20% by 2020 in order to reach this goal.

Setting ambitious targets does not, however, guarantee results. Many EU Member States have indicated that it will be extremely difficult for them to achieve their respective shares of these targets.

At this event, the Heinrich Böll Foundation will discuss the possible creation of a European Community for Renewable Energies as proposed by Dr Michaele Schreyer, former EU Commissioner for Budget, that could provide the institutional support needed to address the technological, financial, informational and policy barriers that prevent renewable energy technologies from reaching their full potential in Europe.

Could such an institution indeed help the EU move towards a sustainable low-carbon future? What contribution could it make to the global fight against climate change? What means could or should it have at its disposal? How should it support the energy industry within a carbon-constrained world? What legal frameworks are needed in order to establish such an institution? And how do the separate Member States view the possible creation of such a European Community?

Date: **Monday, 8 December 2008**

Speakers: **Dr Michaele Schreyer**, former EU Commissioner for Budget
Dr Lutz Mez, Environmental Policy Research Centre

Discussants: **John Gormley**, Minister of Environment, Ireland (TBC)
Janusz Zaleski, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Poland (TBC)

Chair: **Ralf Fuecks**, Co-President, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin