



**MALTA ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND  
RENEWABLE ENERGIES ASSOCIATION  
(M.E.E.R.E.A.)**

TEL: (+356) 79538123 FAX: (+356) 21255676

---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Prime Minister urged to support binding renewable energy and energy efficiency targets for 2020 at Thursday's European Council**

The NGO Malta Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies Association (M.E.E.R.E.A) has written to the Prime Minister, the Hon. Dr. Lawrence Gonzi, reporting business calls for Malta's support for binding EU renewable energy and energy efficiency targets, to be decided on by Thursday's European Council.

A letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> March signed by the M.E.E.R.E.A. Secretary-General, Mr. Charles Yousif, sent to the Prime Minister stated that *"This is to inform you that the participants at the Business Forum on Energy Saving and Renewables held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at the Malta Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise in Valletta, resolved to urge the Government of Malta to support binding targets of at least 20% by 2020 for the share of renewable energies in energy consumption, as well as for energy efficiency, within the Energy and Climate Change Policy proposed for the European Council's adoption at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2007"*.

Accompanying the letter, were the results of a M.E.E.R.E.A. survey sent to the business sector, which made concrete proposals for legislation, incentives and related measures to be included in the forthcoming budget.

M.E.E.R.E.A. agrees with all business stakeholders that a real market for energy efficiency and renewables does exist in Malta. However, this can only be achieved if Government takes the lead in a concerted action to:

- finalise and publish Malta's energy and renewable energy policies,
- produce the necessary regulations for greater energy saving and for the implementation of renewable energy applications,
- augment significantly the current incentives for renewable energy installations,
- Encourage Enemalta Corporation to offer attractive feed-in tariffs for renewable electricity generation and,
- Spearhead the necessary educational campaign for the promotion of energy saving and renewable energies, throughout the Maltese public.

---

M.E.E.R.E.A., P.O. Box: 54, Malta International Airport, MIA 01

URL: <http://www.geocities.com/meereamalta>

E-mail: [meereamalta@yahoo.com](mailto:meereamalta@yahoo.com)



Member of the World Council of Renewable Energy

Member of the International **INFORSE-EUROPE** Network for Sustainable Energy

M.E.E.R.E.A. praises the German Embassy's initiative to organise the Seminar on 5<sup>th</sup> March entitled: "Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency – A Business Opportunity in Malta", held with the support of the Malta Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise and the Malta Federation of Industry. The number of bookings, which exceeded the 150-person capacity of the Chamber's main conference room, was a strong indicator on the need of local business for information and guidance on how renewable energies and energy efficiency could become true business opportunities.

M.E.E.R.E.A. also noted with interest the statement to the seminar by the Minister for Resources and Infrastructure, the Hon. Ninu Zammit's confirming the government's intention to fully support renewable energy and energy efficiency, while calling for cooperation between the Government, the energy regulatory authority and businesses and highlighting the draft conclusion of the EU Energy Council for binding targets for renewable energy by 2020.

However, MEEREA is greatly concerned that the Draft Energy and Renewable Energy Policies issued in August 2006 remain pending, and calls on the government to inform the public about how it intends to incorporate comments transmitted to it several months ago, and when the final policies will be finally adopted and put into operation.

The interest of the Maltese public at large in renewable energies and energy efficiency clearly emerges from recent EUROBAROMETER survey reported by Ivan Camilleri in 'The Times' of 6<sup>th</sup> March. The survey revealed that 90% of the 500 Maltese respondents supported the EU in setting a minimum percentage of the energy used in each member state from renewable resources, while 88% thought that in the coming decade they would have to change everyday consumption habits, including how to heat, light or cool their homes.

---

For more information contact Mr. Charles Yousif, Secretary General, M.E.E.R.E.A.

E-mail: [meereamalta@yahoo.com](mailto:meereamalta@yahoo.com)

Mobile: 79538123

6th March 2007