

EREF

European Renewable Energies Federation

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EREF welcomes Environment Committee Vote on RoHS Directive

EREF welcomes the European Parliaments Environment Committee's decision to reject the suggestion that renewable energy systems should be included in the scope of a directive about household goods. "This would have created another competitive disadvantage against renewable energies", EREF President Rainer Hinrichs-Rahlwes underlines.

The Committee has rejected proposed amendments to the Revision of the "Restriction of Hazardous Substances" (RoHS) Directive which would have included all electronic equipment in the scope of this piece of waste legislation.

EREF President Rainer Hinrichs-Rahlwes: "It does not make sense to treat renewable energy technology like windmills, heat pumps or solar panels as if they were sandwich toasters or DVD-players. Renewables are competing with fossil and nuclear energy production and not with household equipment".

We therefore welcome the decision to exclude renewable energies from the scope of RoHS.

EREF believes that this is an encouraging first step, and now underlines that the Council should confirm the intention of the Commission and the European Parliament to exclude RES from the scope of RoHS, which was designed for household electronics and not for power plants.

Including Renewables in the scope of RoHS would have discriminated against renewable energies to the benefit of coal, oil and gas, which should all be assessed on an equal basis as regards the environmental profile of the electricity produced. Life-cycle assessment and energy pay-back time are adequate instruments for making this assessment. The exclusion of Renewables from the scope of RoHS will support the EU goals regarding climate change, renewable energy, and energy security.

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