

Friends of the Earth Europe

PHOTO/TV OPPORTUNITY: Dynamic installation outside EU Spring Summit, March 9th



Giant EU Energy Flag outside EU Spring Summit

European citizens flag up their demands for green energy

In the morning of March 9th 2007, a big action organised by Friends of the Earth will take place right outside the EU Spring Summit in Brussels. Hundreds of people from more than fifteen countries across Europe will form a Giant EU Energy Flag and demand that their governments “Stop climate change. Cut energy waste. Choose renewables”, as Heads of States agree on Europe’s future energy policy.

WHAT:

* Dynamic action, climaxing in a 12m by 14m installation of a mock EU flag. Each star will display the symbol of a sustainable energy choice in its centre. People from fifteen countries across Europe, dressed in blue and standing on a scaffolding structure, will form the basis of the flag.

* 2m-high golden energy stars in the installation will be adorned with the signatures of European citizens, collected in public actions across Europe over the previous weeks.

* A sea of banners, with the slogan “Stop climate change. Cut energy waste. Choose renewables” in the languages of all participating groups will surround the base of the flag.

* Music and speeches will provide an audio accompaniment to the visual scene.

Please go to http://www.foeeurope.org/giant_eu_energy_flag to see a cartoon mock-up.

WHERE: Rue de la Loi, uphill from Rond-Point Schuman, Brussels, Belgium

WHEN: 9th March 2007

***The Giant EU Energy Flag**

11:30-12:30: Finished installation in place. Speeches.

***The Giant EU Energy Flag comes to life**

10:30-11:30: People climb up on to the scaffolding structure of the flag, stars hoisted up into their positions, banners unfurled.

***March with the Golden EU Energy Stars**

9:30 – 10:30: Participants march with signature-laden 2m high “Energy Stars” from Porte de Tervuren through Parc Cinquantenaire to the top of Rue de la Loi.

WHO: Activists from Friends of the Earth groups from countries across Europe, representing the thousands of citizens who signed the 2m high “Energy Stars” in previous actions at a national level.

INTERVIEWS will be available at the action site with spokespeople from each participating country: Austria (German), Belgium (French, Flemish, German), Bulgaria (Bulgarian), Croatia (Croatian), Czech

Republic (Czech), Estonia (Estonian), Finland (Finnish), France (French), Germany (German), Hungary (Hungarian), Latvia (Latvian), Netherlands (Dutch), Poland (Polish), Spain (Spanish), UK (English). Interviews will be available over the telephone with spokespeople from Italy (Italian) and Slovenia (Slovenian).

BACKGROUND

EU Heads of States will agree on 9th March on an Energy Action Plan for Europe. Friends of the Earth warns that, in its current form, this plan is too feeble to fight climate change. Each of the stars on the Giant EU Energy Flag represents one of Friends of the Earth's demands for Europe's energy policy:

***CUTTING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

The Heads of States must agree to at least 30% emissions reduction by 2020 and 80% by 2050, in comparison to 1990. This is the only way to avoid catastrophic climate change.

***ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

It is crucial to put an end to our appalling energy waste. We need a concrete commitment to cut energy use by 20% by 2020.

***RENEWABLE ENERGY**

EU leaders must agree to more wind, solar and wave power. We need a binding commitment to meet, by 2020, 25% of Europe's energy needs from renewable sources such as wind, sun and biomass.

***NO NUCLEAR POWER**

We need a phase out of nuclear power: it is dangerous, expensive - another Chernobyl could happen any day – and nuclear power leaves a radioactive legacy for future generations.

***NO MORE FOSSIL FUELS**

There must be a phase out of subsidies for dirty energy – pumping money into coal and nuclear distorts the market by making dirty energy artificially cheap, when actually renewable energy is more economic.

***SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT NOT DIRTY OIL**

Europe badly needs unsustainable trends in the transport sector to be reversed – we need fewer and more efficient cars, tax on aviation fuel and expanded public transport networks.

For more on the Energy Action Plan for Europe and on Friends of the Earth's specific demands, see http://www.foeeurope.org/giant_eu_energy_flag/FoEE_EU_Council_media_brief_March07.pdf

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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