

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Combined solar thermal / oil hybrid heating solutions- efficient, affordable and available**

*Eurofuel and ESTIF present the best of renewable and fossil heating energy at EU Sustainable Energy Week*

**Brussels**, 14 April 2011 – As the EU defines its Energy Efficiency Plan, consumers and businesses question how their energy heating consumption and costs will be affected. Today Eurofuel, the European Heating Oil Association, and ESTIF, the European Solar Thermal Industry Federation, will discuss the way forward in offering affordable and efficient heating to consumers-making the case for combined hybrid solar thermal and conventional boiler systems.

*“The EU’s new Energy Efficiency Plan stressed once again the massive potential for primary energy savings in buildings, specifically through efficient heating systems,” says Prof. Dr.-Ing. Christian Küchen, the President of Eurofuel. “But we must take it one step further and offer consumers cost-effective solutions, such as hybrid systems combining oil appliances with solar thermal energy.”*

Oil’s unmatched storage capacity, combined with low-carbon “free” energy from the sun, not only offers consumers an efficient solution, but also helps them manage their heating costs.

**Robert Welling**, ESTIF President & Managing Director of TiSUN, adds: *“a greater share of renewables in current heating systems is crucial for the EU’s heating sector to play its part in achieving Europe’s 2020 targets. The technology of combined heating systems with solar thermal and fossil energy is already available to consumers - this will reduce their future carbon footprint as well as costs.”*

The proposed set of ecodesign and energy labelling measures for boilers, just circulated to stakeholders by the Commission is a major step towards combined efficiency and renewables in heating. However, it remains to be seen whether the excessively high efficiency criteria and energy appliance labelling will deter low-income consumers from replacing their boilers.

In light of the Ecodesign and Energy Performance Directives, and today’s debate around energy labelling for heating appliances and systems, Eurofuel and ESTIF will call for a progressive introduction of ecodesign and energy labelling measures, with proper recognition of the benefits of combined hybrid oil/solar thermal systems in the label.

For more information, please visit <http://www.eurofuel.eu/>

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## Notes to editors

### *About Eurofuel*

**Eurofuel (the European Heating Oil Association) is the umbrella organisation representing 10 national associations, which promote best practice in the use of heating oil for domestic heating.**

Eurofuel's members cover the complete home heating supply chain, from oil companies of various sizes, through to independent fuel traders and distributors, heating equipment manufacturers and finally heating installers. The great majority of these members are Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), key in boosting economic growth and employment throughout the EU.

The main activities of Eurofuel focus on the **efficient use of energy** for the heating of buildings and domestic warm water, and the protection of the environment. These activities aim at **keeping a fair place for liquid heating fuels** compared to other fossil fuels, and other energy sources. Also key is informing consumers, local authorities, architects, builders and heating installers about present solutions combining oil heating with sustainable solar energy, and ongoing R&D for future liquid biofuels applications in the European heating sector.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.eurofuel.eu/>

### *About ESTIF*

**ESTIF (the European Solar Thermal Industry Federation) actively promotes the use of solar thermal technology as a key element for sustainable heating and cooling in Europe.**

With around 100 members from 19 European countries ESTIF represents the interest of the whole supply chain, from manufacturing to installation and components, also including research and test institutes, consultants, and national solar thermal associations.

As the voice of the solar thermal sector, ESTIF is the trusted source of information, advice and expertise for all stakeholder members; sets the strategic direction of the industry and influences public policies; assists in the elaboration of European standards and certification schemes and campaigns for increased R&D funds through the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating & Cooling (RHC-Platform)

For more information please visit [www.estif.org](http://www.estif.org)