eurofuel
The European Heating Oil Association

On 24 May 2011, Eurofuel participated in a debate on "Eco-innovation as a Driver for a Resource Efficient Europe" in the European Parliament, hosted by a Dutch MEP, Lambert van Nistelrooij. Prof. Christian Küchen, Eurofuel's President, shared some examples of the substantial resource and energy efficiency gains that had been made by the heating sector through technological improvement of oil-powered boilers, combined with renewable energy input such as solar thermal panels. Prof. Küchen insisted on the high potential offered by existing technologies, including hybrid heating systems, to achieve concrete energy efficiency gains. He explained that the priority should be to tackle the implementation gap, for instance by replacing old boilers with state-of-the-art condensing boilers combined with renewable energy systems.

Representatives from EU institutions, such as MEP Judith Merkies, from the Netherlands, or William Neale, from the cabinet of Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik, stressed the importance of achieving better resource efficiency or "resource intelligence", as Ms Merkies said. Beatriz Yordi Aguirre, from the European Commission's agency in charge of support for eco-innovation, EACI, presented the funding schemes available for eco-innovative projects. Efforts undertaken by EU regulators and industry were praised by Dr. Fernando Diaz Lopez, a scientific researcher from TNO. Paul Cartuyvels, from the construction and telecommunication holding company Bouygues, representing the Energy Efficient Buildings Association (E2BA), addressed the need for appropriate financial resources in order to reap the benefits offered by resource efficiency and welcomed the first signs of a shift in demand towards more efficient buildings.

The dinner debate, attended by a large number of EU policymakers, industry and civil society representatives, was co-organised by Eurofuel, E2BA and the European Crop Protection Association (ECPA), within the framework of the network membership of "Knowledge for Innovation" (K4I).