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Report hails the role of cogeneration combined with renewables

PRESS RELEASE

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IEA report observes that cogeneration is attractive to both policy-makers and private users and investors because it delivers a range of energy, environmental and economic benefits

'Cogeneration and Renewables - Solutions for a low carbon energy future' demonstrates that renewables and cogeneration have the potential to work side-by-side to achieve a common low-carbon future. This view reflects the work carried out at the European level by the Renewable Heating and Cooling European Technology Platform.

While renewables accounted for only 10% of the fuels used in cogeneration plants, this share is growing rapidly and renewable-based CHP forms an integral part of the EU's 2050 decarbonisation vision.

Cogeneration technology has the advantage of being able to contribute to renewable power deployment, and to renewable heat. Unlike renewables for transportation and electricity sectors, in which a large number of policies exist to promote the use of biofuels and renewables-based electricity, renewables for heat currently receive little policy attention.

An advantage of renewable heat produced by cogeneration technologies is that the scale is sufficiently big to make it economically viable to measure the heat produced.

Cogeneration can reduce the carbon footprint of some technologies that will invariably be needed to balance the fluctuations in electricity production due to the variable nature of some renewable energy sources. Since cogeneration offers well-established energy efficiency and carbon mitigation credentials, it should be a preferred solution.

Energy efficiency in the form of cogeneration, coupled with renewable fuels, is one of the most powerful tools that can be used to meet energy-related challenges. It is available now if there is sufficient support from policy-makers to make it a reality.

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About cogeneration:

Cogeneration (also known as CHP or Combined Heat and Power) is the simultaneous production of heat and electricity. 11% of Europe's electricity and heat requirements today are produced using this proven energy efficiency technology. The estimated growth potential is for a further 120 GWe of cogeneration which will lead to an improved environment and greater economic competitiveness in Europe. Cogeneration units can be found in different sizes and applications: industry, households and tertiary sector and spans applications with capacities ranging from below 1kw to hundreds of Megawatts. It is a highly efficient energy solution that delivers substantial reductions in CO2 emissions and can be a large contributor to delivering the targets of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change for Europe. In EU Member States where cogeneration has been seriously supported as in Denmark their electricity supply system operates at 65% efficiency overall compared to the current EU average of an unacceptable 33% efficiency overall. Cogeneration substantially contributes to reaching strategic climate and energy goals, such as security of supply, energy efficiency and reduction of emissions. More info on www.cogeneurope.eu

About CODE:

The Cogeneration Observatory and Dissemination Europe Project (CODE) is a 30 month project to monitor the implementation of the CHP Directive across the European Union. The project is led by COGEN Europe and is partly funded by the European Commission under the Intelligent Energy Europe programme. More info on www.code-project.eu