

## More consultation at DG TREN

**DG TREN's consultative body – the European Energy and Transport Forum – was reconstituted at the beginning of October. The Forum was set up by the Commission two years ago to provide it with opinions and advice in the field of energy and transport from professionals and the parties concerned. There was, however, a similar body operating on the energy front in the days of DGXVII Energy.**

“In only two years the Forum has presented many opinions on important matters to the Commission as well as providing guidelines for debate on the future of our policies. It is essential to guarantee the continuity of this work and to maintain the momentum created by this dialogue between the Commission and the relevant players in the public arena,” said **Loyola de Palacio**.

### Members of the Forum

There are 34 members of the Forum and 34 alternates. Over half of the members from the previous Forum have been re-appointed and the new Forum's mandate will last for two years. The members are leading figures representing a broad range of activities and skills and include operators (energy producers, carriers, industrialists), infrastructure and network managers, users and consumers, trade unions, environmental protection associations, organisations in the field of security and safety and academics. Interestingly though there is no-one from the environmental NGO community.

Following a call for applications published last April, the Commission selected the new members of the Forum for a two-year term starting on 1 October. An inaugural meeting was held in Brussels on 12 October.

The Forum is the Commission's consultative body for energy and transport. Its role is:

- to present opinions on Commission initiatives in the fields of energy and transport
- to act as a monitoring centre for energy and transport policies

- to assist the Commission in following up the debates and actions launched in the Green Paper on the security of the EU's energy supply and the White Paper on European transport policy for 2010.

**Andrew Warren**, special advisor to the **European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency (EuroACE)**, is one of those to be reappointed. He says the Forum provides “a genuine opportunity to involve stakeholders at an early stage, in testing out new policy measures.”

### Working groups

While the plenary sessions are often an opportunity for reporting back on work, the Working Groups which report to the plenary provide a setting for Commission staff to discuss the real issues facing the energy sector and it is generally agreed that these provide a real opportunity for stakeholders to put their case direct to the Commission officials concerned with particular areas of policy.

The Forum represents the joint nature of the DG, as it covers both energy and transport. There have been some voices suggesting there should be two separate ‘streams’ – one for each policy area. DG TREN has always argued that there are significant similarities: historical national monopolies and cross-frontier issues. Others believe there are sufficient differences for them to be treated separately and that the appointment of two commissioners – one for energy and the other for transport – makes this an appropriate time for such a restructuring.

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