



Date: Brussels, 4 April 2012

Subject: Invitation to the European Solar Days Interactive Stakeholder Debate (Brussels, 10 May 2012)

Dear colleague, / Dear Mr., / Dear Mrs.,

We are pleased to invite you to this year's [European Solar Days](#) Interactive Panel Debate, "**Solar Citizens: People in charge of their Energy Future**". The event, hosted by Amalia Sartori, the newly elected chair of the ITRE Committee, will take place on 10 May in the European Parliament.

The debate's thematic focus is particularly topical in light of the Energy Roadmap 2050, and as Europe's citizens consider their energy choices in the years to come. As consumers look for ways to decrease their energy bills, ensuring a supply of affordable electricity and heating is becoming a major European goal.

Participants at this high-level panel debate include representatives of the Covenant of Mayors, European Commission DG Regional policy and Lampiris, the 100% green energy provider in Belgium.

Following the panel debate, representatives of National Campaigns will have the opportunity to join in the discussion via a **live video connection**, addressing questions to the panel and showcasing best practices in their countries.

The Brussels event of the European Solar Days is co-organised by the European Photovoltaic Industry Association (EPIA) and the European Solar Thermal Industry Federation (ESTIF) and will bring together numerous stakeholders to discuss the flexible use of solar energy. The European Solar Days campaign (1-13 May 2012) aims at raising public awareness for solar energy all over Europe and is supported by the Intelligent Energy Europe programme of the European Commission. We are also official campaign associates of Sustainable Energy Europe.

We would greatly appreciate your attendance as your insights would add a valuable dimension to what is a crucial discussion for the future of solar energy in Europe.

Please find enclosed the provisional programme, a factsheet with further information on this year's European Solar Days and a map of the event location.

Please confirm your presence before **30 April**, by filling in the [registration form on the EPIA website](#).

Should you have any questions or require any clarification, do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Reinhold Buttgereit, EPIA Secretary General

Xavier Noyon, ESTIF Secretary General



European Solar Days Brussels debate: Brussels, Thursday, 10 May 2012, European Parliament

Agenda

- 12:15 – Networking lunch and registration
- 13:00 – Opening Speech by Amalia Sartori, Chair of the ITRE Committee: Vision of the European Parliament for Europe's energy future and which role solar energy can play (5-10 min)
- 13:15 – Keynote address by Christian Egenhofer, Senior Fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies, Head of the Energy & Environment Programme: "Barriers to realizing energy cost savings – the potential of solar energy" (15 min)
- 13:30 – Panel Debate: "Solar citizens: People in charge of their energy future" (45 min)

Moderated by Chris Burns, Freelance journalist

Speakers:

- Boris Klebensberger and Fabrice Didier, Board members, EPIA
- Nigel Cotton and Arthur de Vries, Board members, ESTIF
- Pirita Lindholm, Member of Covenant of Mayors Office and Head of Climate Alliance Brussels Office
- Maud Skäringer, Policy Analyst- Policy Coordination, European Commission DG Regional Policy
- Bruno Vanderschueren, Director General and Co-founder, Lampiris

Q&A session – bridge to Solar Days events in different European countries: questions from the citizens addressed to the panel participants

- 14:45 – Round-up and closing remarks by EPIA/ESTIF (5 min)

European Solar Days- For a Bright Future

The European Solar Days (ESD) initiative aims to raise public awareness for intelligent energy solutions, especially for Solar Thermal heating and cooling and for Photovoltaic electricity production. In 2012, the ESD will take place from 1-13 May.

ESD is a European project which aims to reach the European target of 20% of the total energy demand covered by renewables in 2020. The European Solar Days demonstrate the paramount importance in increasing the use of sustainable energies; solar energy in particular, including thermal and photovoltaic.

The event started in 2002 as the "Day of the Sun" in Austria and has developed into an annual full-blown pan-European campaign running over several weeks. The European Solar Days are celebrated in an increasing number of countries. In 2012 around 6,000 events are planned by diverse organisations ranging from schools and local authorities to solar equipment manufacturers.

**Venue**

European Parliament, Jozsef Antal building, Room 6Q1
Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels, Belgium

About EPIA

EPIA – the European Photovoltaic Industry Association – represents members active along the whole solar PV value chain: from silicon, cells and module production to systems development and PV electricity generation as well as marketing and sales. EPIA's mission is to give its global membership a distinct and effective voice in the European market, especially in the EU.

About ESTIF

The European Solar Thermal Industry Federation (ESTIF) is the voice of the solar thermal industry, actively promoting the use of solar thermal technology for renewable heating and cooling in Europe. With around 100 members from 19 European countries, ESTIF represents the entire supply chain: manufacturers, service providers and national associations, which together cover 95% of today's solar thermal market.

