

PRESS RELEASE



2nd European Solar Days:

Europe celebrates the energy from the sun 15-22 May 2009

Brussels, 14th May 2009: The second European Solar Days are celebrated from 15 to 22 May with more than 500.000 citizens participating in 7.000 events in 15 European countries. Solar PV and Solar Thermal are replacing fossil fuels and nuclear energy in Europe.

The European Solar Days are a Europe-wide campaign to promote the use of solar energy for production of electricity, heat and cold. What once started in 2002 in Austria as 'Day of the Sun', is now a multi-country effort of thousands of local events organisers ranging from solar equipment manufacturers, to church communities and local governments. In 2008, the initiative was taken to the European level and the first European Solar Days took place in 13 European countries with over 4.000 events.

The second edition of the European Solar Days takes place 15-22 May 2009 in 16 countries. More than half a million citizens are expected to participate in the more than 7000 events in Austria, Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

"The events are as varied as their organisers", says Uwe Trenkner, Secretary General of the European Solar Thermal Industry Federation (ESTIF). "We have street festivities for children, educational events, exhibitions of solar technologies and much more. And we expect to grow even more in 2010". Any stakeholder in the solar sector is invited to initiate events that promote the use of solar energy. On the Solar Days website (www.solardays.eu) contacts for each participating country are shown.

Solar energy is available everywhere in Europe and can be used for private and for commercial applications. The trend towards solar energy is not only visible in southern countries such as Spain and Portugal but also to be found in many other countries such as Germany, Norway and Sweden, where there is an ever growing number of photovoltaic and solar thermal installations. "With the right support framework these clean technologies will become ever more important pillars of our energy supply in Europe" concluded Adel el Gammal, Secretary General of the European Photovoltaic Industry Association (EPIA).

The European Solar Days are coordinated by ESTIF in close co-operation with EPIA and supported by 24 organisations at a national and European level.

Characters (incl. spaces): 2.446

Further Information:

Comprehensive information on the European Solar Days is available at:
www.solardays.eu

Download this press release from: www.solardays.eu/press

The European Solar Days are a proud partner of the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign: www.sustenergy.org

Press Contact:



Pedro Dias
Operation Manager

Marie Latour
Deputy Communication Manager

ESTIF
European Solar Thermal Industry Federation
Renewable Energy House
Rue d'Arlon 63-67
B-1040 Brussels
Belgium

EPIA
European Photovoltaic Industry Association
Renewable Energy House
Rue d'Arlon 63-67
B-1040 Brussels
Belgium

Tel: +32 2 400 10 80
Email: pedro.dias@estif.org
Web: www.estif.org

Tel: +32 2 400 10 13
Email: m.latour@epia.org
Web: www.epia.org

The European Solar Days are supported by:



Intelligent Energy  **Europe**

The sole responsibility for the content of this press release lies with the authors. It does not represent the opinion of the European Communities. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.