NOTE
from: General Secretariat of the Council

to: Delegations

Subject: Foundation of the International Renewable Energy Agency - IRENA
- Information from the German delegation

Delegations will find attached information from the German delegation on the above.
Foundation of the International Renewable Energy Agency - IRENA

Founding Conference on 26 January 2009

After an intensive preparatory process consisting of three international conferences, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was officially established in Bonn on 26 January 2009.

The foundation of IRENA is supported by a large international interest. 125 delegates, including the European community and over 40 international organisations and organisations from the renewable energy field took part in the founding conference. Up-to-date, 93 states have signed the Statute of the Agency, amongst them 35 African, 29 European, 20 Asian and 9 Latin-American countries.

Objectives and activities of IRENA

Renewable energies play a key role in overcoming global challenges: energy security, environmental protection, scientific development and poverty reduction. IRENA’s goal is therefore, to accelerate the sustainable use of renewable energies worldwide. IRENA will encompass the development of all forms of renewable energies.

The opportunities of renewable energies are presently insufficiently used. IRENA will therefore contribute to closing the gap between the large potentials and the relatively low worldwide market share as quickly as possible.

IRENA aspires to become the main driving force for promoting a rapid transition towards the widespread and sustainable use of renewable energy on a global scale. As the global voice for renewable energies, IRENA envisages providing practical advice and support for both industrialised and developing countries, thereby helping to improve frameworks and build capacity. Moreover, the Agency intends to facilitate access to all relevant information, including reliable data on the potentials for renewable energy, best practices, effective financial mechanisms, and state-of-the-art technological expertise.
Constructing IRENA

With the establishment of the Preparatory Commission, the Agency began work the day after the Founding Conference on 27 January 2009. The Preparatory Commission consists of IRENA’s Signatory States and acts as the interim body during the founding period. The tasks of the Preparatory Commission are to take the necessary decisions to build up the organisation.

The Commission will be dissolved after entry into force of the Statute, which will occur upon the 25th deposit of an instrument of ratification (expected at the end of 2010/ beginning of 2011). The Agency will then consist of an Assembly, a Council, and a Secretariat.

The second session of the Preparatory Commission will take place in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on 29 to 30 June 2009. In its second session, the Preparatory Commission will determine the Agency’s interim headquarters and its Interim Director-General. Moreover, decisions are envisaged regarding the work programme, financial regulations, staff regulations, and the budget. After the Interim Director General and the interim headquarters are determined, IRENA will start to construct its Secretariat.

Signatory States (Members of the PrepCom) (93 as of the 10 June 2009)


Signing announced: United Kingdom, Malta, United States of America, Australia