

MEMBER STATES FAIL TO TRANSPOSE COGENERATION DIRECTIVE



PRESS RELEASE

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION SENDS REASONED OPINIONS TO FOUR MEMBER STATES

On 20 November the Commission sent a Reasoned Opinion to Portugal, Slovakia, Finland and the United Kingdom for failure to communicate the full transposition of the 2004 Cogeneration Directive. On the eve of the Copenhagen summit COGEN Europe presses the Commission to step up pressure on Member States to take action on the immediate gains in CO2 reduction possible from cogeneration.

The four Member States now have two months to take the necessary measures to comply with the Reasoned Opinion. After that, the Commission can decide to bring the case before the European Court of Justice. "It is very disappointing that four Member States have received final warnings and COGEN Europe wants to see the Commission starting to take even tougher action", Fiona Riddoch, Managing Director COGEN Europe says. "Cogeneration hugely improves the fuel efficiency and lowers CO2 emissions in the power sector. Europe should be taking a strong line on Energy Efficiency implementation and championing technology solutions like cogeneration at Copenhagen".

Member States had until 21 February 2006 to transpose the rules of the Cogeneration Directive into national legislation. The Reasoned Opinion is the second step in the infringement procedure. COGEN Europe points to the overall slow and problematic transposition process of *Directive 2004/8/EC on the promotion of cogeneration based on a useful heat demand in the internal energy market and amending Directive 92/42/EEC* as jeopardising Europe's critical short term actions on Climate Change.

COGEN Europe is currently monitoring the implementation of the Directive into national legislation under the CODE project. CODE (Cogeneration Observatory and Dissemination Europe) is an EU wide independent assessment of the progress of the Directive and preliminary results show an overall delay in reporting by the Member States

COGEN Europe and the IEA will be presenting on cogeneration at the Bright Green Event in Copenhagen on the 12th and 13th of December (GE stand) and will draw attention to the still untapped cogeneration potential in Europe. Both organisations will be advocating more rapid and focused action by the Commission and Member States on growing the cogeneration sector in Europe

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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 150 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.

Cogeneration substantially contributes to reaching strategic climate and energy goals, such as security of supply, energy efficiency and reduction of emissions. 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.

About COGEN Europe:

COGEN Europe is Europe's umbrella organisation representing the interests of the cogeneration industry, users of the technology and promoting its benefits in the EU and the wider Europe. The association is backed by the key players in the industry including gas and electricity companies, ESCOs, equipment suppliers, consultancies, national promotion organisations, financial and other service companies. More information can be found 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 Cogeneration 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 program. More information can be found on www.code-project.eu