

Welcome.

Harald Bolt

Conference Chairman

1. personal greetings:

Representative of Netherlands Ministry for Economic Affairs, Mr. Mark Dierikx

Plenary speakers of this morning's session, representative for all plenary speakers at the conference:

Javier Solana

Steven Koonin

Jeroen van der Veer

Bernard Bigot

2. What is the European Energy Conference? This biennial European Energy Conference series, launched in 2010, promotes, consolidates and communicates the vitally necessary synergy of scientific and technical competence with knowledge of the environmental and social implications. The conference will provide participants with a view and a vision on how the future of energy in Europe could look like. It will be the forum to discuss the role of energy science and research in the transformation **process towards the future sustainable European energy system.**

In this respect, E2C is a unique undertaking to provide an integrated look at the European Energy system and the research needed to bring the necessary changes about.

E2C is glad to enjoy the **patronage of the European Union Commissioner Günter Oettinger**, responsible for Energy and relates to the Strategic Energy Technology Plan by the Commission and the EU member states.

3. Who is behind the E2C: ESF, EPS and E-MRS, with ESF taking care of the organizational matters.

4. This conference assembles 370 participants from 53 countries, with a total of 110 talks: plenary, keynote and contributed orals, as well as over 120 posters

5. Thanks to **Technical University of Eindhoven:** Help by students and young scientists as stewards and marshalls for the conference. The Netherlands provides a great location to hold this conference: strong player in the European energy research field, scientifically at the forefront in the fields of renewable energy as well as in efficient use of energy; founding of DIFFER (Dutch Institute for Fundamental Energy Research, opening symposium yesterday) as a hallmark to this effort. Eindhoven, close to Maastricht, will develop to an important location for European energy research.

6. Thanks to the support by the **city of Maastricht:** Invitation to the historical town at a real European location: Invitation to a reception in the town hall on Wednesday evening.

7. Thanks to the **sponsors and partners** of the conference: Exhibition space
Coffee breaks and lunches will be served in the poster and exhibition space which will allow for intense interactions in the poster and exhibition area.

8. **Last day:** Conference will end with discussion on how to integrate research on energy into the European context and underline the role of the conference as an open forum for exchange between research and those helping to set the environment for research, namely the member states and the Commission. Excellent reason for you all to be at the conference from the start to conference summary.

9. Finally I would like to **thank** you all for your participation and support and I would like to **wish** you a most interesting and stimulating Conference.