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ESTELA's contribution to the Consultation on the future "EU 2020" Strategy

ESTELA would like to include some comments within the **Key priorities for EU 2020 point 3: "Creating a competitive, connected and greener economy"** of the EU 2020 Strategy:

"One of the main Energy policies for the "EU 2020 Strategy" will be focused on supporting Renewable Energy Technologies. Climate change, sustainable development, security of energy supply and unemployment are some of the main EU concerns for the coming years, and Renewable energy technologies can help tackle them all.

The effective implementation of the European Industrial Initiatives in the SET-Plan and the implementation of the 2009/28/EC RES Directive will be of paramount importance for the Union.

International cooperation in the energy field will be a priority for the EU, in this sense, the article 9 of the RES Directive "Joint projects between Member States and Third Countries" offers the opportunity of importing renewable energy from Third Countries to help Europe achieve its 2020 Renewable targets and beyond (as the European Initiative for a Mediterranean Solar Plan)."

Europe is already suffering the effects of the climate change; a common effective EU action can no longer wait. The EU, aware that Renewable Energies are the solution for a low carbon economy, has imposed the binding RES targets through the 2009/28/EC Directive published in June 2009 in the Official Journal of the EU.

If the 20% renewable targets are achieved by 2020, it will create about 410,000 additional jobs and 0.24% additional gross domestic product (Employ-RES study conducted on behalf of the European Commission DGTREN). Today, the European Renewable Industry is already providing more than 450.000 jobs and has an annual turnover of 45€billion.

Regarding security of supply, we presently live in a world with high carbon constraints and we can no longer depend on external suppliers. Again, the renewable energy sources appear as the only solution to make the EU a safer area.

The Commission's working document on the "EU 2020 Strategy" says "***our prosperity will come from innovation***", and precisely the energy innovation needs have already been identified in the SET-Plan roadmaps. The "EU 2020 Strategy" should support the Industrial Initiatives for the SET-Plan. This Strategic Energy Technology Plan has to become one of the EU energy policy priorities for the coming years.

It is only by supporting innovation that we can exit from the actual crisis and avoid a future one, the European Renewable Industry is at the forefront of these clean technologies and should remain so.