

**3rd European Forum on Eco-Innovation:  
Boosting Eco-Technologies through Verification**

On 26 and 27 November, the European Commission in collaboration with the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development organized the 3rd European Forum on Eco-Innovation in Paris.

Discussions focused on the establishment of an EU scheme on Environmental Technology Verification (ETV). The aim is to support the market take-up of eco-technologies by providing a prior verification of claimed performance and thus enhancing the confidence of investors and potential buyers.

The Forum gathered around 200 specialists who exchanged opinions and explored strategic orientations for the development of a European ETV system. Experts from the US and Canada participated as well and their contributions provided practical experience and important insights from existing ETV systems in their countries.

Workshops included central issues as the objectives and needs addressed by ETV systems, the need to build a cost-efficient ETV system, the state of play on the preparation of an EU scheme and its positioning within existing approaches. Amongst the key issues were ETV systems as a communication and marketing tool and how to articulate ETV systems with the existing funding schemes. International aspects such as the EU support to the international competitiveness of eco-technologies, recognition of verification assessments and the relations with international trade rules were also explored.

Representing 2.1% of GDP, eco-industries are a significant part of the EU economy. Europe is a global leader in eco-industries, with approximately 1/3 of the total market share. The European single market presents greater opportunities for environmental technologies compared to smaller, national markets. The establishment of a harmonized ETV system within the EU is therefore of a central importance for the development of European environmental technologies.

The **4th European Forum on Eco-innovation: Unlocking Global Markets** will take place in Vienna the 31<sup>st</sup> of January and 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2008.

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**ETAP Forum** : [www.ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoinnovation2007](http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoinnovation2007)

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