

## PRESS RELEASE

26 April 2002

### **EFET Statement on Energy Sector Liberalisation on the Occasion of the Pamplona Energy Ministers' Meeting**

EFET followed the deliberations of European Union Member States about further energy sector liberalisation at the Barcelona Economic Summit in March with great interest. On Saturday 27 April energy ministers representing the Member States have a further opportunity to push forward the market opening agenda. They can work on the base of the Barcelona Conclusions and the interim elaboration of texts carried out by a Council Working Group. (This Working Group of senior national civil servants, aided by Commission officials, has been considering the detail of revisions to the existing electricity and gas directives, as well as a draft regulation on cross border trade in electricity.) They will no doubt be taking account also of the detailed reports about the draft legislation, prepared and discussed in the European Parliament.

At this important juncture in the continuing EU debate about deepening and broadening energy sector liberalisation, EFET wishes to emphasise the crucial nature of three elements of the new legislative programme:

- A clear commitment and timetable on the part of all involved EU institutions to mandate the properly supervised accessibility of power and gas transmission networks to *wholesale* market participants, as well as to all end consumers and producers of energy.
- The minimisation of any delay between the full opening of power and gas markets to industrial and commercial consumers and wholesale parties on the one hand, and the subsequent opening of these markets to *residential* consumers on the other. A delay of any significance will only postpone the effective harmonisation of liberalisation across Europe. It would moreover risk the prolongation of opportunities for cross subsidisation within integrated utilities not facing complete competition in supply.
- A wholehearted willingness on the part of all Member States to pursue open access to transmission networks and associated services *across national boundaries*, as well as within each country. This willingness will be characterised by their recognising a need for
  - clear rules, established by independent authorities, related to congestion management and transmission capacity allocation, specifying market based mechanisms,

- transmission tariffs, supervised by the same authorities, which are not duplicated across borders, which reflect only identifiable costs and which are not linked to specific transactions “declared” at borders, and
- constant vigilance by the responsible authorities as to adherence by integrated utilities to the principles of legal, management and accounts unbundling.

Paul van Son  
Chairman of EFET

**For more information, please contact:**

Jan van Aken  
Secretary General of EFET  
Tel: +31 20 520 7970