

Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen

Could I begin by welcoming you to the EP and thanking COGEN for their initiative in inviting me to host this event?

The main purpose of our discussion is to consider how best the demand and supply sectors, on the one hand, and cogeneration, on the other hand, might contribute to the EED. As I see it, the main contribution that I can make by way of opening this debate is to give you a very brief overview of the state of play in the European Parliament.

So, in this respect, almost 2 000 amendments to the EED will be discussed in the ITRE committee tomorrow. Hence, our discussion this evening is particularly timely and will undoubtedly give us food for thought tomorrow. These amendments will then be

voted on, in the ITRE committee, on the 24th of January.

The plenary vote will be in April.

The main stumbling blocks to achieving consensus are questions turning around whether our targets should be absolute targets, consumption targets or energy intensity targets. However, in so far as cogeneration and microgeneration are concerned, there is a high degree of consensus.

Together with my colleague Judith Merkies and Ben Benson, we have worked on a number of amendments to foreground microgeneration. In this respect, a key principle that we wish to defend is the notion that the administrative procedures for the installation of microgeneration units should be as simple as possible. Another is that such simplified administrative procedures should actively foster the development of this technology in individual premises.

In fact, this is part of a more generalised model of decentralised energy production in which individual households and small businesses can - not only produce their own energy - but even sell their excess production to the grid. This will only be possible if we manage to develop the appropriate, *enabling* technologies, legal frameworks and administrative procedures.

Let me finish by introducing our speakers briefly. The first speaker is Mr Christopher Leroy from BDR Thermea in the Netherlands. He will be followed by Mr Henn from EHE, which is based in the Basque country. Anders Ahnger will then speak from Wartsilla, a Finnish based company. Our only lady speaker, with a central concern with the demand sector, is Jessica Stromback (who I also see has a special interest in smart grids). Jessica's talk will be followed by a half an hour discussion led by Peter Verbern from COGEN.

Before handing over to our first speaker, could I just mention that the discussion will begin at 8.00 and we will be breaking for dinner at 8.30.

Thank you very much.