



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Wind power expands 23% in Europe but still only a 3- Member State story - Lower installation rate puts EU Renewables Directive targets at risk

**Brussels, 3rd February 2004** — EU wind power capacity increased by 23% last year to 28,401 megawatt (MW). Germany (2,645 MW) and Spain (1,377 MW) continue to dominate the market. Austria (276 MW) appears among the top three European markets for the first time, followed by Denmark (243 MW). (1)

“Wind energy continues to expand in Europe, but at the moment it is only a three-Member State story. We face maturing markets in the three leading countries Germany, Spain and Denmark which account for 84% of the total wind power capacity installed in EU-15 by the end of 2003. These figures highlight a weakness in the market that needs to be corrected,” said Corin Millais, EWEA Chief Executive.

The 28,401MW installed in the EU-15 by the end of 2003 will, in an average wind year, produce 60 TWh of electricity equal to approximately 2.4% of total EU electricity consumption. The installed wind power capacity would provide the equivalent electricity needs of 14 million average European households, or 35 million citizens.

“The future of European wind power is reliant on opening markets in other European countries on a scale similar to the three leading countries in the coming years. There are positive trends in countries such as Austria, the Netherlands and Italy. But we still have to see the positive political messages of countries such as the UK and France materialise into more actual projects. The overall status of the wind power sector is healthy; nevertheless, the 2003 installation rates are not high enough”, said Millais.

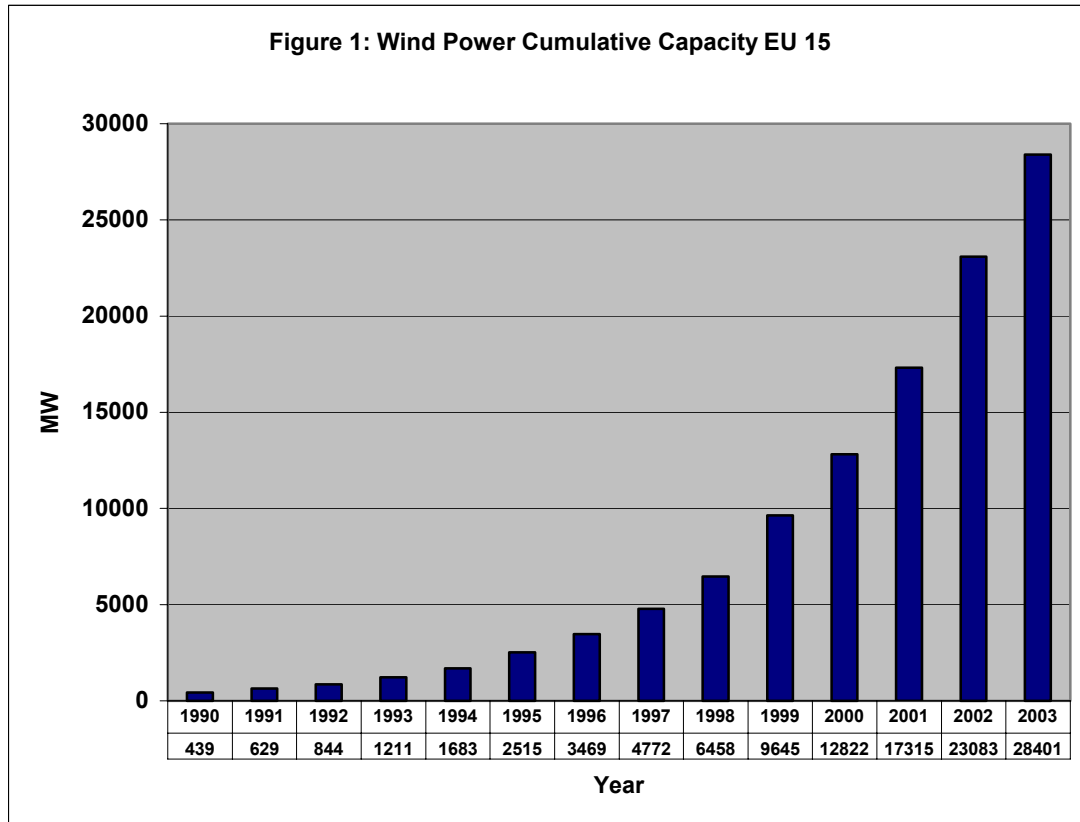
The Renewables Directive (2) target of meeting 22% of Europe’s electricity needs with renewable energy by 2010 will not be reached without a significant contribution from wind power. Wind power could meet 50% of the target, but only with political commitment beyond the three established European markets (3).

“If wind power falters, then the EU Directive also falters. Most European countries have the possibility to substantially increase their renewable energy production with wind power if existing barriers such as grid access and administrative barriers are lifted,” said Millais.

The 5,381 MW installed in 2003 is 9% lower than in 2002 (5.898 MW). “The decline is mostly due to the decline in Germany, which has been predicted. The future direction of the European market depends on how fast other markets can replicate their build rate, and the speed of offshore developments”, said Millais.

## Notes to Editors:

### (1) Wind power cumulative capacity EU 15



(2) The Renewables Directive 2001/77/EC entered into force on 27 October 2001 and aims at increasing the share of electricity from renewable energy sources from 14% in 1997 to 22% by 2010 (in Eu 15), an increase to 675TWh from 337TWh. It sets indicative targets for the share of electricity from renewable energy for all member states.

(3) “Wind power targets for Europe: 75,000 MW by 2010”, policy briefing published by EWEA, October 2003. <http://www.ewea.org/03publications/75MW.htm>

#### Summary of EWEA wind industry target by 2010

- 75,000MW installed, 10,000 of this offshore
- Generating 167 TWh of electricity, enough to power the equivalent needs of 86 million average Europeans
- 28% of total new generation capacity installed\*
- 10.6% of total European installed generation capacity
- Meet 50% of the EU renewable energy directive target
- Investment value of €49 billion\*
- Meet over 30% of the EU Kyoto Protocol target
- Cumulative avoided fuel costs of €13.2 billion
- Cumulative CO2 savings of 523 million tonnes
- Cumulative avoided external costs of €9.4-24 billion
- 25% increase over previous wind industry target set in 2000 ( of 60,000MW) \*for the period 2001-2010

**EWEA is the voice of the wind industry. EWEA members from over 40 countries include 200 companies, organisations and research institutions. EWEA members include manufacturers covering 98% of the world wind power market, component suppliers, research institutes, national wind and renewables associations, developers, electricity providers, finance and insurance companies and consultants. This combined strength makes EWEA the world's largest renewable energy association. EWEA is a founding member of EREC, the umbrella Association of the European renewable energy industry, trade and research Associations on photovoltaics, small hydropower, solar thermal, biomass, and wind power.**