

## **IEA Country report for the 10 and 11 March SLT from the Netherlands**

### 45 million euros extra for cogeneration for 2007

Minister of Economic Affairs Maria van der Hoeven raises the subsidy limit for cogeneration with 45 million euro. End 2007 appeared that the subsidy limit of 36,7 million euro was well over-subscribed.

This was the outcome of a considerable higher production of electricity from cogeneration than was foreseen. Minister van der Hoeven therefore decided to raise the subsidy limit with 45 million euro non-recurrent.

### 4,5 million euro for energy saving in buildings

4,5 million euro will be available to realise innovative, energy saving plans in the house building sector. The money is meant to cover extra investments that are necessary to stimulate energy saving plans that are not common. Those plans must be available for large-scale application in the future and there are several conditions that projects must meet.

This forms part of the Clean and Efficient Programme. This programme describes how the Netherlands is aiming to have one of the most efficient and cleanest energy systems in Europe by the year 2020.

### Bill concerning amelioration of the small-scale customers market for electricity and gas

Minister of Economic Affairs Maria van der Hoeven put forward a bill in Parliament concerning the amelioration of the small-scale customers market for electricity and gas. The most important element of the bill is the roll out of smart electricity and gas meters to houses.

Every small-scale customer will get a so called smart meter in the coming 6 years. This is a meter that can be read and directed from distance and that has certain applications. When a small-scale customer gets his meter, he will receive information regarding his energy use more often. This will give an impulse for energy saving.

A new model will also be introduced: the supplier model. In this model, the customer will only have one contact point, the supplier. This makes it easier for the customer and the supplier can better respond to the needs of the customer.

### Impulse for sustainable energy

Land-based wind farms, solar energy, biogas production, small-scale biomass with the exception of liquid biomass and combined heat and power (CHP) are the categories which may be eligible for subsidies via the Stimuleringsregeling Duurzame Energie (SDE) [Sustainable Energy Incentive Scheme], which is expected to take effect as of 1 April 2008.

Minister of Economic Affairs Maria van der Hoeven announced the expected subsidy rates per category in a letter she sent to the Lower House accompanied by three ministerial decrees. These rates are based on an estimate of the development of the electricity and/or gas prices and can be adjusted on the basis of the actual development of said prices. This allows a flexible response to market developments and avoids oversubsidisation.

The subsidy rates are:

Land-based wind power: 2.8 eurocents per kilowatt hour (kWh).

Small-scale solar photo voltaic installations: 33 eurocents per kWh

Biogas production: 7 eurocents per cubic metre.

Combustion of solid biomass, composting of kitchen and garden waste and co-fermentation of sewage sludge: 5.3 eurocents per kWh.

This is an important step on the way to reaching the objective of 2,000 Mw of new land-based wind capacity during this cabinet period, as referred to in the Schoon en Zuinig [Clean and Efficient] work programme.