

**Mr. Mandil's Welcome Address**  
**IEA Renewable Energy Working Party Seminar "Toward Hydrogen"**  
**on R&D Priorities to Create a Hydrogen Infrastructure**

1. This is the first high level event on hydrogen at the IEA. We welcome participants from Member and non-Member countries of the IEA, from the Committee on Energy Research and Technology, its Working Parties and Technology Collaboration Agreements, from the OECD and from the private sector. We are all looking forward to the presentations on technology status and future visions by both governments and private sector. The technology message of the IEA is a simple one: contribute to the goals of the IEA, the three "Es". For E like "environment" we need to accelerate the development and deployment of low-emissions technologies to achieve deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. Hydrogen is one of the technology options, among others.
2. Over the past several years, the call for more attention to hydrogen has been growing louder. The political interest in hydrogen is on a high level. The IEA Governing Board at its latest meeting demonstrated strong commitment from the Member countries in what is sometimes called a "hydrogen economy." At the same time, it is clear that the achievement of this "hydrogen economy" faces strong technical and policy challenges, and will take place only in the long term.
3. I would like to thank the Renewable Energy Working Party, for this timely initiative to organise this seminar. This responds to our Member country interests and provides a platform for exploring international collaboration toward development of the hydrogen option.
4. We have to ask ourselves on the role of the different technologies that could produce hydrogen, on the nuclear option, on the fossil opportunities, taking into consideration CO2 sequestration, and finally the role of renewables for hydrogen. Hydrogen is the typical cross-cutting issue.
5. No single technology committee can be exclusively responsible for hydrogen, it is an item where the CERT needs to forward a co-ordinated, and well-balanced message to the Governing Board and the Ministers. We should use the seminar to provide a basis for consideration of the IEA can play a stronger role in support of Member interests. Let's get this message right.
6. I believe that the seminar constitutes an important step in defining the goals for our IEA work:
  - We will take stock of hydrogen and hydrogen -related programmes on national and international level.
  - We will see what R&D innovations should be brought to bear and which ones offer greatest potential in creating a hydrogen economy.
  - International collaboration is called for. Timing is of importance and well-designed international co-operation could facilitate and accelerate the necessary decisions on a hydrogen infrastructure and could pave the way to commercial application in different end-use sectors.