

Hydrogen Europe appoints first permanent Secretary General

Brussels, 1 February 2016 – Today, Hydrogen Europe (formerly known as NEW-IG), the leading association working to make hydrogen energy an everyday reality, officially appoints its first permanent Secretary General, **Mr. Jorgo Chatzimarkakis**.

This appointment marks another milestone in the association's recent growth and reflects the tangible momentum in the sector. Mr Chatzimarkakis, a former Greek-German politician and among other Member of the European Parliament, brings with him an extensive European political and business experience to further strengthen the association's advocacy capabilities.

Pierre-Etienne Franc, Chairman of Hydrogen Europe, welcomed the new Secretary General: *"I am delighted Jorgo has agreed to join Hydrogen Europe. His political savvy, issue expertise and remarkable energy will be a tremendous boost for our advocacy effort. The time is now to bring the technology to scale market and Jorgo will play a key role in our strategy."*

Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, the newly appointed Secretary General, commented: *"It was the very idea of using hydrogen to store solar energy that made me join politics as a student in the late eighties. I am thrilled to return to the subject now that the sector is clearly moving to market. I look forward to becoming 'Mr Hydrogen' in Brussels and working with policy-makers, stakeholders and the media to explain the benefits of these technologies for Europe."*

Further information about Mr Chatzimarkakis and a video interview on his plans for the new role can be found on Hydrogen Europe's microsite www.hydrogeneurope.eu.

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About Hydrogen Europe

Hydrogen Europe (formerly known as NEW-IG) is the leading industry association representing almost 100 companies, both large and SMEs, working to make hydrogen energy an everyday reality. The association partners with the European Commission and the research community in the public-private partnership Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH JU) to accelerate the market introduction of these clean technologies in the energy and transport sectors.

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