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By [News Editor](#) / Updated: 01 Aug 2014

## [EU signed an agreement of co-operation on fuel cells technology with US](#)

Submitted by [News Editor](#) on 01 Jan 1970

**Picture:**



**Topic:**

Archive

**Body:**

The agreement aims to strengthen research links on fuel cells technology, by bringing together EU and US researchers

Fuel cells are efficient energy converters, which generate electricity and heat by chemically combining oxygen from its fuel cell source without combustion or pollution. They are key elements for an hydrogen oriented economy, and could replace combustion based conversion systems in the long term future.

European Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin and the US Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham signed an agreement of co-operation on fuel cells technology on 16 June in Brussels. According to Busquin By pooling EU and US research efforts and resources, we improve our chances of finding a long-term solution to the world's energy and transport problems.

The agreement will lead to the development of joint initiatives in the following areas:

- Transportation vehicles demonstration, including fuelling infrastructure.
- Fuel cells as Auxiliary Power Units.
- Codes and standards.
- Fuel choice studies and socio-economic assessment of critical materials availability for low temperature fuel cells.
- Solid Oxide Fuel Cells and high temperature fuel cell turbine hybrid systems.
- Support Studies.
- Direct Methanol and Polymer Electrolyte Membrane fuel cells for transportation and stationary applications.

The EU is making efforts to encourage research in the field of fuel cells, with a total public expenditure of some € 660 million for the 2002-2006 period. In relation to road transport the European Commission has set a target of replacing 20% of the fuels by alternative fuels by the year 2020. Hydrogen, biofuels and natural gas have been identified as alternative fuels that could reach an important market share. In this line the Commission is working on a legislative initiative to promote the purchase of clean and energy efficient vehicles by public authorities, which could help to increase the share of clean vehicles in Europe.

Sources: [[http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/846](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/846)

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