



European Conference for Renewable Energy 'Intelligent Policy Options'

Berlin, 19-21 January 2004

Session Conclusions 21st January 2004

Session 3: Looking forward - Horizon 2020

The “European Conference for Renewable Energy – Intelligent Policy Options” discussed and evaluated in the third session the horizon for 2020. Targets and possible scenarios for renewables were discussed and the role of renewables in the mitigation of climate change impacts was analysed. A high level panel ended the conference with the Chair conclusions and recommendations for the international conference, *renewables2004* to be held in Bonn by June 2004.

Accordingly the session was structured as follows:

Panel 3a: Targets and Scenarios for the development of Renewable Energy Markets in Europe up to 2020

Panel 3b: From Rio to Kyoto and Johannesburg: The spotlight has turned towards Renewable Energy Sources

Long-term targets

The panellists stressed the need for **target setting as an important policy instrument**. Studies presented during the conference show that a significant increase of renewable energy use is feasible and can bring important socio-economic and environmental benefits for European citizens and industry.

It was clearly identified that ambitious targets can only be reached by implementing strong policies and regulations. The measures taken hitherto will not be enough to reach a more significant market penetration of renewables.

In fact, it is well accepted that medium term targets are essential to elaborate measures while long-term targets are essential to develop strategies. In addition, targets set by policy makers are clear signals to private sector and investors.

The different studies analysed during the panel demonstrate that all actors developing such targets are proposing a target of around 20% of total gross inland consumption in 2020 for the enlarged EU-25 under the classical accounting method. WWF considers a 25% penetration as feasible for 2020.

Should the Commission maintain its lead position, a long-term prospective document is to be issued as soon as possible.

World sustainable development

Renewable Energies contribute to mitigate climate change impact in the short-term and to sustainable development in the long-term. By providing carbon-neutral sources of power, heat, cooling and transport fuels, renewable energy options offer a **safe transition to a low carbon economy**.

The EU commitments to reducing emissions of climate change gases can only be fulfilled by significantly increasing the share of renewable energy sources.

In Johannesburg the EU also committed itself to the Energy Initiative for poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development and to the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition. Both initiatives focus on the use of renewables in developing countries and on the creation of new policies.

Both initiatives did not yet get the needed attention to fulfil what they were planned for. It was identified that **a political and financial support** must be given to both.

Partnerships that lead to action at the national, sub-regional or regional levels with a focus on institutional capacity building and technical assistance are needed to ensure concrete results. A comprehensive **European International Strategy** for renewables combined with development programs should be set up.

Political and financial support is to be given to Community initiatives proposed in Johannesburg: the Energy Initiative for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition. An international strategy, including technological transfer and cooperation, combined with development aid programmes devoted to Renewable Energy should be set up.

A high-level panel closed the conference and gave the conferences recommendations to the international conference *renewables 2004*.

The recommendations will be the European input to the international conference.

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