



EuroCaribbean RES Forum
An island alliance in favour of sustainable energies

Memorandum of Understanding

WE, the participants at the 'EuroCaribbean Island RES Conference', meeting in Saint Lucia on May 30th and 31st, 2002.

Reflecting on this Conference's important exchange of experiences and ideas.

Considering that energy resources are fundamental to the future development of islands, given their extreme dependence on imported conventional energy sources which make them vulnerable to the volatility of supply and environmental degradation.

Recognising the economic impact of the cost of imported energy sources on Caribbean Island States and territories, and the need for diversification of energy supply sources for energy security.

Taking into account that energy options are determinant of other essential aspects of sustainable island development, conditioning both the adaptation and competitiveness of island key sectors such as tourism, water management, agriculture and transport.

Conscious of the need for a long-term view that will promote the development of both the large potential of improved energy efficiency and the wider use of available renewable sources of energy including wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal and biomass.

Acknowledging the efforts made by the Caribbean countries and territories in favour of large-scale deployment of renewable energy sources through a wide range of national and regional initiatives that will generate future projects, and the opportunity to open a European window for the support of the energy sustainability in the Caribbean islands.

Recognising the complementary roles of the public and private sectors, and the need to promote co-operation tools that will allow the creation of actual market alliances with a regional view.

Considering that the European industry of renewable energy and island experiences can effectively complement the substantial process of renewable energy sources development in the Caribbean islands.

Taking into account the role of new and renewable sources of energy efficiency in the sustainable development of small island states, and the need for international collaboration and cooperation in that process as described in the Barbados Programme of Action.

Accepting that in order to facilitate the effective participation of Caribbean Countries in the Forum an appropriate coordination mechanism will be established in the Region.


Agree:

1. To adopt, support and effectively contribute to the constitution of a permanent co-operation Forum between European Union and the Caribbean region to promote the active participation of main European and Caribbean market decision-makers.
2. To promote collaboration with on-going national and regional initiatives in favour of renewable energies, operatively supporting the Forum's tasks.
3. To support the establishment of new effective co-operation channels based on the commitment of Renewable Energy industries and companies.
4. To contribute to the development of an effective system of information and promotion of renewable energy technologies and projects of mutual interest, taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the new information technologies.
5. To request the support of the European Commission for maintenance and consolidation of the initiative.
6. To apply for the endorsement of those international, regional and national organisations, governments and the private sector competent in the development and promotion of initiatives in favour of energy sustainability within the region.
7. To charge INSULA with the responsibility of implementing this agreement within the framework of its role as Secretariat to the Forum. This responsibility will entail the formulation of an ECRES Work Plan and its presentation to the European Commission and other relevant parties. This Work Plan will reflect the main objectives and tasks of the Forum.
8. Once assurances for appropriate funding have been obtained, INSULA acting as the Forum Secretariat will proceed to propose the legal and operational structure for the implementation of the Work Plan. At this point the participants in this Conference and signatories of this Memorandum of Understanding will be invited to participate in an ECRES Forum constitutive general assembly.
9. This Memorandum of Understanding reflects the first stage of the process of the establishment of the Forum.
10. To explore opportunities for the implementation of Renewable Energy projects in the Caribbean under the aegis of the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol.

This Memorandum of Understanding is the result of the consensus emerging from the Conference, cofunded by the European Commission, hosted by the Government of Saint Lucia, promoted by INSULA together with the consortium of European organisations (EREC, ITER, NTUA, ITR) and supported by the UNESCO. Participants included representatives from Caribbean and European island governments, the renewable energy industry, renewable energy service providers, utilities, consultants, international organisations, regional organisations and recognised experts.


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