

7th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Renewable Energy

DECLARATION OF BERLIN 2007

on the upcoming

Framework Directive for Renewable Energy Sources

We, MPs and MEPs, call for a clear and ambitious Framework Directive on Renewable Energy Sources (RES) to explore RES potentials in all Member States of the European Union (EU) and to facilitate a proper implementation of national RES policies.

Key Challenges

Climate Change

Climate Change is a reality. The evidence is overwhelming and the scientific community is unanimous that Climate Change is caused by human activities, mainly the burning of fossil fuels, which emit greenhouse gases (GHG). Glaciers are retreating, the Arctic is melting, the sea level is rising, deserts are expanding and species are disappearing - these are just a few dramatic results of our energy production and usage. If these results are to be kept within bearable limits, the rise in global average temperature has to be kept below 2° C. According to the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), GHG emissions must peak and decline within the next 10 to 15 years. This requires a major shift in our energy and transport policy.

Energy Demand and Rising Energy Prices

Globalisation and industrialisation have led to a constantly rising fossil fuel and energy demand. The world's energy consumption has doubled since the beginning of the 1970s and demand for energy is set to increase by more than 50% by 2030 if no action is taken. At the same time, 1.8 billion people around the world do not have any access to energy services. Bearing in mind that the world population is estimated to grow from 6.6 billion today to more than 9 billion people within the next few decades, the demand for energy will continue to rise considerably.

The steady growth on the demand side has resulted in rising energy prices with oil reaching an all time high of 80 dollar per barrel in September 2007 stressing private households and companies alike.

Energy Import Dependency and Finiteness of Conventional Energy Sources

Europe's energy supply system is characterised by a dominating share of conventional energy sources and a high dependency on energy imports. Already today, the EU needs to import 50% of its energy demand - a trend which will increase dramatically at unpredictable prices. The EU's energy demand is covered 93% by fossil fuels and nuclear energy sources, with 80% of oil imported, 55% of gas and almost 100% of uranium. It has to be kept in mind that these resources are finite by their very nature and will run out within this century.

We, MPs and MEPs, are convinced that without a clear shift towards renewable energy sources, energy savings and energy efficiency we will lose the opportunity to provide sufficient energy supply at affordable prices for everybody. We must secure our energy supply and mitigate Climate Change.

Key Solutions

Major Steps for Renewable Energy in the Past

Renewable energy technology had to and still has to face the facts that they do not receive the same support as conventional energy sources in terms of subsidies as well as budgets for research and development. An internalisation of external costs for air pollution, Climate Change and other societal threats is still missing. Despite these shortcomings, renewable energy in Europe is a success story.

Today, Europe has technological leadership in a wide range of renewable energy technology including hydropower, wind and solar as well as geothermal, biomass and marine. This success story is mainly due to those Member States which provide stable long-term support which gives clear security to investors. These support schemes are better known as "Feed-In Systems" and have proven to be most cost efficient and effective.

The ground for the development of renewable energy in the EU was set by its White Paper on Renewable Sources of Energy in 1997. An overall target of increasing the share of renewable energy to 12% of total energy consumption by 2010 was set.

Thanks to the Directive on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy 2001 and the Biofuels Directive 2003, Europe is noting a clear growth in these sectors. The European renewable industry has an annual turnover of more than 25 billion EUR and employs more than 350,000 people thereby helping to fulfil the Lisbon Criteria. In addition, it reduces GHG emissions. These legislative frameworks include not only sector specific targets, but also provisions such as priority grid access to ensure investors confidence. Nevertheless, regulations and incentives for the renewable heating and cooling sector are still missing.

The European Parliament was always one of the key drivers for the development of renewable energy in Europe, urging for a sectoral approach on the three very different sectors of electricity, transport as well as heating and cooling and for an overall target of 25% renewable energy sources by 2020.

Major Steps ahead for Renewable Energy

We, MPs and MEPs, welcome the unanimous decision taken at the European Council's Summit in March by the 27 EU Heads of State to set a 20% binding target for renewable energy by 2020. This decision has laid the ground for a different environmental and energy future.

Now, the European Commission, the European Parliament as well as European Governments are facing the challenge to put these conclusions into a legislative framework including strong measures and legislations to provide the ground for investment into all different forms of renewable energy technology.

Key Claims

Framework Directive for Renewable Energy Sources

We, MPs and MEPs, having in mind the upcoming Framework Directive on Renewable Energy Sources, call for:

A sector specific approach with a fair and transparent opportunity-sharing of the minimum 20% overall binding target in 2020 on the three RES sectors as well as on the EU27 Member States. This target should also be considered as intermediate target to a higher share of renewables.

The exclusive consideration of renewable sources of energy to count for the fulfilment of the 20% binding target,

A midterm overall target and sector specific targets for 2015 in order to monitor and assess the ongoing process and if needed a revision of certain aspects of the directive,

Necessary means for the Commission to assess the progress and to sanction Member States who fail to meet their target,

A priority dispatching as foreseen in the existing successful Directive for the Promotion of Electricity produced from RES and the Directive on Biofuels,

An ambitious legislation for heating and cooling with a view to at least doubling the current share by 2020,

Country specific binding sectoral targets in the national Renewable Energy Action Plans (RAPs),

A Framework Directive which, in terms of the support systems, follows the subsidiarity principle and does not jeopardise existing successful systems – like feed-in systems - which have already proven to be cost-efficient and effective in meeting the national targets, while at the same time allow for broad technological diversity. Therefore we urge the European Commission to withdraw its idea to introduce a mandatory EU trading system which potentially could undermine existing successful systems.

A certificate system to ensure the sustainability of biomass including biofuels.

Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund (GEEREF)

We, MPs and MEPs, welcome the Commission's proposal on the establishment of a Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund (GEEREF) while urging the Member States of the EU to participate financially in this scheme.

European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan)

We, MPs and MEPs, urge the European Commission to give first priority to energy efficiency, energy savings and renewable energy in regard to both technological and organisational innovation in the upcoming proposal for the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan). The specific problems of the Mediterranean area countries on desalinisation shall be addressed.



Commitments

We, MPs and MEPs, commit, to bring these issues forward in our respective Parliaments and, more specifically, to promote the upcoming Framework Directive for Renewable Energy Sources in our own Parliaments and with our respective national governments as well as with business and civil society.

Mandate to EUFORES

We, MPs and MEPs, ask EUFORES to spread this declaration to our colleagues in all 27 EU National Parliaments and the European Parliament, to all relevant institutions and organisations and to the public via the media.

We, MPs and MEPs, ask EUFORES to develop this parliamentary network further in our name, to inform the parliamentarians on the ongoing developments and to prepare follow up meetings in order to give us, the Parliamentarians, the necessary information and platform to discuss and influence the upcoming political process.

For further information please contact:

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