

Declaration “European Regions for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources”

A declaration on energy efficiency and renewable energy was signed on 7 December 2006 at a round table organised in Brussels by the Committee of the Regions, the European Federation of Regional Energy and Environment Agencies and the Assembly of European Regions.

The declaration includes a series of separate pledges made by individual regions. Speaking at the round table, Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs said that he hoped more regions would follow suit and set quantitative targets as well.

The text of the declaration is as follows:

***Recognising** the crucial role of energy for economic development and the environmental situation in Europe and*

***Understanding** the important contribution sustainable energy production and use can make to a positive economic and environmental development and*

***Acting** out of responsibility for future generations and in partnership with other regions across Europe,*

***We, the undersigned regional and local governments,** have made a commitment to increasing our share of renewable energy and to boosting energy efficiency in our regions. We acknowledge that energy efficiency and renewable energy sources are most important cornerstones of sustainable development because they contribute to environment and climate protection, to local job creation and economic growth, to security of energy supply, to independence from energy price fluctuations as well as to social cohesion and innovation.*

***Recognising** the importance of local and regional action in making sustainability happen, we are actively promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in our own buildings, installations and sites as well as to the citizens, municipalities and businesses in our regions.*

Deeply concerned** about climate change and the increasing dependency on imported fossil fuels and their impact on our environment and economies, **we call upon other European regions,** but also upon local and national governments as well as the European institutions, **to join forces for a better and more sustainable energy future!

Some highlights of the individual pledges made by a number of regions are listed below. It is obvious that renewable energy sources (RES) are in particular favoured in Spain and Sweden. Geothermal energy explicitly is mentioned only once, by the Region of the Azores; however, within the frame of RES, geothermal energy will be an important tool to reach the targets as desired. The full set of signed declaration copies and of individual pledges can be seen at:

<http://www.fedarene.org/publications/Projects/Contrat/Res-e-Regions/Declaration.htm>

Azores (PT): Increase of renewable production in the electricity sub-sector, from 116 GWh to 268 GWh in the year of 2011 (on conservative perspective), resorting to investments in hydro, wind power and geothermic energy.

Andalusia (ES): 15 % of primary energy demanded in Andalusia should come from renewable energy sources in 2010

Castilla y Leon (ES): Reaching a share of 18 % of renewable energy in primary energy consumption and a share of 32% in electricity production by 2010 (excluding large hydro power)

Central Finland (SF): Be a fossil-fuel free region by 2015 (excluding fuels for traffic).

Hessen (DE): 15% of the total energy coming from renewable resources until 2015.

Jaén (ES): Producing 126 ktoe of renewable electricity increasing the power installed up to 300MW, which supplied 50 % of the renewable sources energy consumed in the province. Substituting 28 ktoe of conventional energies in final uses with renewable energies by 2010.

Kalmar (SE): To be totally fossil free by 2050 or earlier, ... to be a region of renewable energy sources.

Navarra (ES): 14% energy supply from renewable energy sources by 2010, 75 % of the electricity production from renewable energy sources by 2010.

Norbotten (SE): Increasing the share of Renewable Energy Sources.

Northwest England (UK): Increase renewable energy from 321MW installed capacity (1,049 GWh) to 1,231 MW installed capacity (3,500 GWh) by 2010,

Oberösterreich (AT): Additional 10 PJ from renewable energy sources until 2010.

Valencia (ES): Doubling the share of RES by 2010, tripling electricity production from RES by 2010.

Wallonie (BE): Green energy targets by 2010:

- Producing 8% of electricity from renewable, against 2.6% in 2000,
- Producing 9% of the final low temperature energy consumption (heating, sanitary hot water, industrial low temperature process) from renewables, against 6% in 2000,
- Renewable energies will represent more than 4% of the final consumption by 2010, against 2% in 2000.