



4th INTER-PARLIAMENTARY MEETING
RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES IN THE EU
Santiago de Compostela, 19 – 21 April 2002
Declaration of Santiago de Compostela



We, the 41 Members of the European, National and Regional Parliaments, meeting in Santiago de Compostela,

- on renewables in the framework of the liberalisation of the European energy sector,
 - call for a fair treatment of renewables in the internal market through the internalisation of external costs and the progressive reduction of subsidies to the conventional forms of electricity production.
 - ask for fair treatment for renewable energy sources regarding access to the grid and grid pricing, taking into account the benefits which decentralised renewable energy production brings to the grid.
 - welcome the proposal of the European Commission on mandatory labelling of all electricity sources, and the confirmation that this important information will be provided to consumers in a liberalised market, as noted in the first reading of the European Parliament.
 - ask all EU institutions, when discussing the Trans-European Networks (TEN) energy programme, to consider the necessity of grid integration for large scale renewables (e.g. offshore in the North Sea).
- on renewables and energy efficiency,
 - welcome the Intelligent Energy for Europe Programme, proposed by the European Commission, and demand an increase in its budget, emphasising the role of effective dissemination to society of the benefits associated with renewables and energy efficiency, and the need to involve Public Institutions in exemplary implementation actions.
 - resolve to investigate ways in which renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts in candidate countries can be encouraged,
 - ask for an early Directive on demand side management, for a prompt proposal of the Directive on promotion of combined heat and power, and for a fast track adoption of the Directive on energy efficiency in buildings.
- on renewables in electricity generation,
 - welcome the EU Directive on the promotion of electricity from renewable energy sources and above all the targets set, not only at EU level but also at National level which give Member States the necessary flexibility to choose their support mechanisms to accomplish these targets.
 - remind the National Parliaments that this Directive has to be transposed into National legislation before October 2003 and call for rapid implementation.
 - ask the National Parliaments to transform the indicative targets proposed by the Directive into binding national targets and to push their governments to develop concrete national strategies to translate the commitments into a concrete achievement of these targets.
 - reiterate that, since these targets are indicated as a percentage of renewable electricity in the national electricity mix, such objectives could be met by a combination of curbing the demand of electricity and by generating renewable electricity.
- On the biofuels for transport Directive,
 - congratulate the EU Commission for proposing a Directive to stimulate the use of biofuels for transport.
 - invite the European Parliament and EU Member States to accept and support the proposal of the Commission, especially its mandatory objectives.
 - believe that biofuels provide security of supply, competitiveness and protection of the environment, the three aspects identified in the White Paper on Energy Policy, also boosting rural economies and enhancing employment prospects.
 - acknowledge that a significant contribution to the reduction in CO₂ emissions in the transport sector will also come from other policy measures such as reduction of the weight of cars, greater engine efficiency, integration of external costs in transport prices and more integrated regional and urban planning.
 - stress that the development of biofuels is a contribution to reducing the dependency on oil imports which constitute a serious threat to EU's security of supply.
 - call on the EU institutions to consider good agricultural practice while discussing this Directive.
- on biomass,
 - stress the importance of increasing action and support at all levels to allow for a significant development and market penetration of biomass, that will otherwise not meet its share of the EU targets for renewables for 2010.
 - call for the effective integration of biomass in the Common Agricultural Policy as well as in the Common Energy Policy.
 - ask all EU Institutions, when discussing the utilisation of biogenic fuels, to launch initiatives to stimulate the agricultural, environmental, forestry and logistics sectors to extend their capacities in biomass production, transformation and transportation, and to increase and facilitate cross-sectorial inter-dependencies, both in Public Administrations and in the Private Sector.
 - call on Member States to implement rapidly the eco-compatibility criteria agreed in the Agriculture Council of Nice.
- commit ourselves to the following:
 - to reinforce contacts between Parliamentarians at Regional, National and European level in order to promote coordinated action in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency.
 - to mutually share information on all aspects linked with the promotion of renewables at European, National and Regional level, asking EUFORES to help us in this task.
 - to review progress made at the next Inter-Parliamentary Meeting, that will take place in 2003 in Greece, giving special attention to our parliamentary colleagues from Candidate Countries.
 - to attempt to build up cross party alliances at the level of European, National and Regional Parliaments, which would promote renewable energies.
 - to call on the Member States to introduce a new Chapter in the Treaties on a Common EU Energy Policy.

The participants call upon all the relevant European Union, National, Regional and Local Elected Bodies, Institutions and actors throughout the EU, to promote and develop jointly the measures contained in this Declaration, and urge the organisers to distribute this document throughout the EU, especially to the upcoming informal meeting of the Energy Council in Pamplona, in order to reach the highest number of decision-makers and achieve the greatest possible impact.

Santiago de Compostela, 20 April 2002