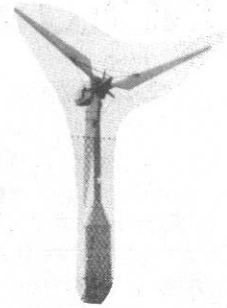


# INFORSE



## International Network for Sustainable Energy

By Gunnar Boye Olesen, OVE

### Background, the new sustainable energy NGOs

While the successes of the sustainable energy NGOs have been remarkable on local and national scale, there have been no international network, where these organizations have had a voice, that could be heard from the international communities, and that could spread the ideas and knowledge of the results from the organizations.

On this background there was established an NGO-working group on energy by the end of 1990. The group formulated in an open process an NGO-energy strategy "Sustainable energy development, towards a world strategy" in spring 1991. This strategy was presented for UNCED at Prepcom 3 in August 1991 with support from a large number of NGOs, as previous mentioned in Soft Energy. It is now supported by more than 50 NGO's worldwide.

### INFORSE founded in Rio de Janeiro

With basis in the working-group behind the energy strategy, OVE organized three workshops on sustainable energy development at Global Forum, the NGO-forum parallel to the UNCED-conference in Rio de Janeiro. At the first of these workshops, INFORSE was formed with the broad objective to encourage and support environmentally sound energy strategies for sustainable development at all levels. In the declaration from the workshop, the following specific tasks of the network are mentioned:

- Exchange of experiences and networking among NGOs.
- Public education and awareness creation.
- Establishment and support of focal points that will lobby international

bodies, multi-lateral development banks, donor agencies and multinational corporations.

- Implementation of a mechanism for soliciting and channeling support to grassroots, local, national, regional and international NGOs.
- Liaising with concerned multilateral agencies such as UNCED and the proposed RE and Efficiency Agency and with NGOs as International Solar Energy Society.
- Formulating and supporting the implementation of a global sustainable energy strategy based on local, national and regional energy strategies.

In the declaration it is also stated that any organization supporting the NGO energy strategy "Sustainable energy development, towards a world strategy" can become member of the network. There is no membership-fee, but voluntary contributions are welcome.

### Structure of INFORSE

The first workshop in Rio appointed OVE as a secretariat for the network and "Soft Energy Worldwide" as newsletter. The second workshop was used to choose contact-persons from the world regions and discuss initial activities of INFORSE.

The task of the contact-persons is only to represent INFORSE in the initial phase and organize regional meetings, where INFORSE-coordinators can be elected in a democratic procedure among voluntary energy-NGO's of that world region. The regional meetings are the democratic basis of INFORSE. This has been chosen rather than worldwide meetings, because it gives poorer organizations better possibilities to participate.

The wider structure of INFORSE will develop with its activities and its future contacts to international bodies.

If the funds become available, INFORSE will set up a fund to support

energy-NGO activities in developing countries.

### INFORSE contact-persons chosen in Rio

Europe:

- Adam Gula  
Polish Ecological Club (PKE)  
priv. Poselska 20/15, 31002 Krakow,  
Poland, ph: +48-12-214587
- Gunnar Boye Olesen, OVE

Latin America

- Emilio Lebre la Rovere  
Instituto de Ecologia e Desenvolvimento, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Martin Prieto Beaulieu  
REDES FOE-Uruguay, Montevideo, Uruguay
- Waldo Bustamente  
Tekhne, Santiago, Chile

Northern America:

- Howard Geller  
American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE), Washington DC, USA
- Alden Meyer  
Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), Washington DC, USA

Africa:

- Stephen Karekezi  
Foundation for Woodstove Dissemination (FWD), Nairobi, Kenya
- Youba Sokona  
ENDA, B.P. 3370, Dakar, Senegal

Asia/Oceania:

- Raymond Myles  
Action for Food Production (AFPRO), New Delhi, India
- Benjamin Gertes  
Philippine Center for Appropriate Technology, Bataangas City, Philippines

In Europe, the first regional meeting is planned to be at September, 18 in Madrid. All organizations in Europe, that have supported the NGO energy strategy have been invited for the meeting.