

## **INFORSE-Europe position on development of EU energy policies 2006**

March 23, 2006

### **Energy theme of European Council, March 2006**

It is crucial for a sustainable development in Europe and for security of energy supply that the ideas of increased use of renewable energy and energy efficiency are converted into real changes in the policy in the EU-level as well as on the national levels of the EU countries. Therefore INFORSE-Europe has made the following proposals that capture key elements of a sustainable energy policy for Europe.

### **INFORSE-Europe proposes for European Energy Policies:**

- That R&D for energy efficiency and renewable energy is increased and that a separate budget is made for sustainable energy in the 7th framework programme. As part of that R&D must not be limited to the few sustainable energy fields currently covered by technology platforms.
- Fast adopt a plan for energy efficiency as a framework for standards, labelling, promotion and better funding, including funding from existing sources such as structural funds and EiB lending. The plan should target all cost-effective energy efficiency potentials based on current energy prices including external costs. It should not be limited to 20% efficiency increase by 2020 as the cost-effective potentials are much larger. As a guideline the plan should lead to real reductions year-to-year in consumption of electricity, heat, and energy for transport. In addition, promotion of CHP based on gas and renewable should be part of the plan.
- Fast adopt a plan for sustainable transport with the aim of reductions in fossil-fuel consumption, and with a broad range of measures including vehicle energy efficiency standards, tax incentives for efficient vehicles, road-pricing, planning for reduced transport including commuting, promotion of modal shifts, increase sustainable use of renewable energy in transport, integration of all costs in transport infrastructure planning. Some of these measures will be based entirely on national sovereign decision; but that is not an excuse for inaction or for uncoordinated actions among neighbouring countries.
- Fast adopt a plan for renewable energy with targets of 25% renewable energy and specifically 25% renewable heating and cooling by 2020. A new directive on renewable energy for heating should be proposed in parallel to the development of the plan.
- That EU countries should introduce or revise energy policies to meet environmental and security of supply objectives within the next 12 months, and revise them every five years.

- Increased short-term actions for renewable energy, on EU and national level, to reach the 2010 targets for renewable energy. As part of that is proposed that EU countries introduce 5-year programmes for promoting renewable energy applications.
- No new subsidies for gas and electricity infrastructure. These are commercial technologies and their development should not be distorted with grants or preferential loans from countries or the EU-system.
- Develop a Pan-European Treaty for Sustainable Energy and Security of Supply to supplement the existing Energy Charter and the coming South-East European energy market. The cooperation should focus on practical cooperation and of development of markets and other dissemination measures for renewable energy and energy efficiency that can reduce import dependence and improve environment.
- Develop a global cooperation on energy efficiency for energy efficiency standards, phasing out environmental harmful subsidies, promote efficient energy use globally via international assistance and lending.
- Support initiatives for an international organisation for sustainable energy such as the IRENA now supported by the German government.
- In all energy dialogues with other countries have sustainable energy as a top priority.

INFORSE-Europe is a network of 72 NGOs throughout Europe active for sustainable energy. See [www.inforse.org/europe](http://www.inforse.org/europe), contact [ove@inforse.org](mailto:ove@inforse.org), or call +45-86227000.