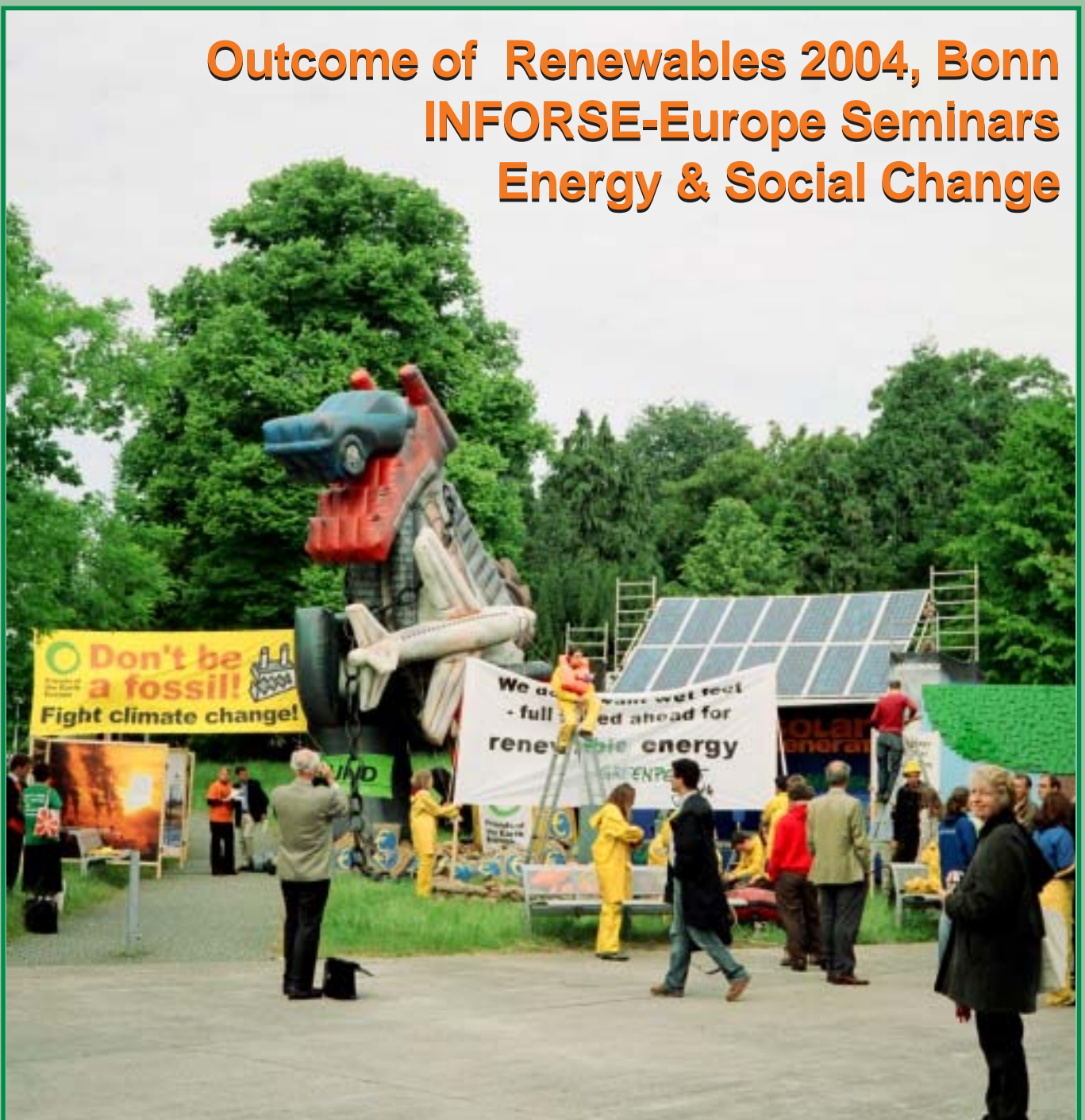


SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS

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Outcome of Renewables 2004, Bonn INFORSE-Europe Seminars Energy & Social Change



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Photo on the front page:

Exhibitions of Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace in front of the "Renewables 2004" conference building in Bonn in June. See article on page 3-4
Photo by Judit Szoleczky
OVE/INFORSE-Europe

Sustainable Energy & Social Change

The connections between sustainable energy and social change were the theme of this year's INFORSE-Europe seminar, organised in cooperation with the Spanish INFORSE member Escanda.

The connections are as diverse as social change itself. Social change can be many things: it can be positive changes to improve the relations in a local community, and it can be negative changes, driving people into poverty.

The seminar in Spain led to new cooperation among different people and organisations. I believe that it will also lead to new topics for the INFORSE network.

Many organisations have been concerned with the World Trade Organisation (WTO), as its trade and investments rules have threatened the development or the constituencies they are working for.

Maybe we should take a closer look at the effects on sustainable energy from the rules currently under negotiation?

This was suggested at the seminar in Spain, and is elaborated in the theme in this issue.

The connections with social change naturally leads to the efforts for positive changes, maybe in particular in areas where the current trend is negative changes.

How can the use of sustainable energy be a force for positive changes?

Examples from all over the world clearly show how it is possible to do this. It is, however, also clear that sustainable energy can be used in many ways, and when large renewable energy plants are centrally owned and managed, they do not contribute that much to the local development, if they contribute at all.



Picture from one of the many discussions at the INFORSE/Escanda Seminar.

They can still reduce environmental problems, but the added effects of jobs and increased links in the local networks of people will not be there. Another issue is that sustainable energy can support a positive development, but in most cases it will not bring fundamental changes in itself to the social situation. It needs to be combined with a number of other innovative solutions if it is to solve problems of massive unemployment etc.

In between the global WTO negotiations and the development of local initiatives, there is the national level, and for the 25 European countries, also the EU. These are the scenes where most INFORSE organisations are active, and that have to contribute to the development of sustainable energy, to make the local successes prosper.

This will be the focus of the next seminars INFORSE-Europe seminars, in Brussels and in Budmerice, Slovakia, both in November. I hope to see many member organisations there.

Gunnar Boye Olesen

Gunnar Boye Olesen
Editor and INFORSE-Europe Coordinator

Integrating Local Alternatives to Global Problems

Preparing this seminar (INFORSE-Europe/Escanda seminar, Asturias, Spain, August 2004) and the seminar itself have been very inspiring for us because it combined many of the aspects that motivated us to change our lives and set up Escanda in Spain.

We started the challenging living and working space of ESCANDA in order to continue raising social awareness about the need to change the economic, political and social systems that are destroying the Earth and condemning billions to poverty, and to strengthen the campaigns and networks that fight against corporations and institutions at the basis of global capitalism. But more than anything else, we are trying to build up a decentralised, small-scale alternative set of productive and social relations in a way that enables and facilitates skill-sharing and training in a number of local and integrated alternatives, including energy production and consumption, organic agriculture and forest management, alternative education, etc.

Therefore, the seminar and the collective experience and wisdom of the fantastic mix of participants have contributed very significantly to our future work.

Thank you! ESCANDA Team - Kim, Kevin, Kolya, Pablo, Jorg and others

See articles on pages # 5-7



The World's Largest Renewable - Energy Conference - Bonn'04

By Gunnar Boye Olesen, INFORSE

With over 3000 participants, the International Conference for Renewable Energy ("Renewables2004") in Bonn, Germany, June 1-4, became the largest conference for renewable energy organised so far.

- 154 countries were represented officially at the conference.
- The countries agreed upon a political declaration, recommendations for support for renewable energy, and an international action programme with more than 150 actions.
- The political declaration has several good elements, including a recommendation for increased investments by the World Bank and other multi-lateral development banks in renewable energy.
- The countries also agreed to cooperate within a global policy network for renewable energy and to promote the role of renewable energy in discussions of energy by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in 2006 and 2007.

NO Global Target

No global, and no regional targets were agreed upon at the conference. A target of 20-25% renewable energy for EU by 2020 was proposed from several sides before the conference. Just before the conference, however, the EU Commission issued a communication proposing that the 25 EU countries discuss RE-targets for 2020 over the coming two years. The EU countries followed the proposal from the Commission. Before the conference, the Latin American countries had agreed to a target of 10% renewable energy by 2010. Unfortunately, a change of policy in Brazil meant that this target was not pushed so hard at the conference. On a slightly more positive note, China presented a target of 10% renewables in China by 2010. In addition, the conference concluded that renewable energy could be used to supply power to a billion people who lack it today; but this was a conclusion, not a real target that the countries are committed to reaching.

150+ Actions

The actions listed in the international action programme are proposals for promotion and increase of renewable energy, ranging from small activities, such as the Danish – German environmental impact assessment of off-shore windpower, to China's new renewable-energy target of 10% and the Phillipine programme to double its renewable energy use by 2013. The German government will monitor the progress of all 150+ actions.

Pictures inside and outside of the building of the "Renewable Energy Conference Bonn 2004"

Top: An NGO observer view to the official conference negotiations

Middle: Outside of the building: Evaluation of the countries by Greenpeace. The flags inside of the sun showing those countries which support renewables.

Down: Outside of the building: Several NGOs and renewable industry made exhibitions. Among others solar cooking facilities, wind mills, PV powered kitchen could be seen. Here you can see to call: FOE: "Don't be a Fossil Export Fight Climate Change", and Greenpeace: "We don't want wet feet! Full speed ahead for renewable energy"

Photos in Bonn made by Judit Szoletzky, INFORSE-Europe, Sustainable Energy News if no other sources mentioned



No New World Organisation

A world organisation for sustainable energy was supported by a world Parliamentary Forum organised as part of "Renewables2004", as well as by the World Council for Renewable Energy, which met before "Renewables2004", and the youth energy seminar that was held in parallel to the conference. In spite of this support, the idea of such an organisation was not supported by the countries at the conference. Thus, "Renewables2004" did not become the starting point of such an organisation, as many had hoped it would.

Active NGOs, CURES Reinforced - YES

The NGOs actively participated in several official and parallel activities both before and during the conference. Among the NGOs represented were several national NGOs from all over the world. WWF and Greenpeace made demonstrations and exhibitions outside of the building. Eurosolar and YES (Youth Energy Seminar) held conferences just before the official conference.

Continues on page 4



The NGO exhibition was a meeting point: Above: Judit Szoleczky editor of Sustainable Energy News. Photo by IISD, Canada. To the left: (from left) Raymond Myles, Emil Bedi, Timothy Byakola, Werner Kiwitt, Gunnar Boye Olesen all representing INFORSE organisations.



Group photo of many of the representatives of INFORSE organisations met in Bonn.



INFORSE coordinators met in Bonn:

Above: Roque Pedace, Argentina; Emil Bedi, Slovakia; Gunnar Boye Olesen, Denmark; Mika Ohbayashi, Japan, Timothy Byakola, Uganda; Raymond Myles, India.

Down: African Coordinators: Secou Sarr, Senegal; Clair Taylor, South Africa; and Timothy Byakola.



Continued from page 3

Citizens United for Renewable Energy and Sustainability (CURES), a network of environmental and many developmental organisations, held daily NGO meetings at the NGO Center, and held press conferences at the Press Center.

The CURES exhibition place gave opportunity for NGOs to place their posters, brochures and publications. The exhibition was a popular NGO meeting point during the conference.

After the official conference, a CURES meeting was held in which the participants agreed to continue the cooperation and to elect new coordinators. Coordinators are now in place from larger networks such as INFORSE and from the world regions.

The secretariat continues to be the German Forum for Environment & Development. Among the new coordinators, several are from INFORSE member organisations in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Read about the conference and its outcome at www.renewables2004.de, www.inforse.org/europe/bonn.htm www.cures-network.org.



CURES press conference in Bonn. From left: Marcelo Furtado, Jürgen Maier, Jenifer Morgan.

INFORSE in Bonn

INFORSE participated in the official conference with observers, participated in CURES meetings, and exhibited together with other members of CURES.

INFORSE-Europe organised an NGO side-event at which the new "Vision 2050" for the EU-15 was launched.

INFORSE organisations, e.g., ENERGIA and ISEP organised thematic side events.

INFORSE-Europe held its Annual Meeting (see page # 8)



INFORSE-Europe side event: Gunnar Boye Olesen presented the new "INFORSE Vision 2050" for EU-15, Andrej Konachenkov presented the Ukrainian, and Ion Zamfir the Romanian versions.

World Bank's Small Step for Renewables

In the beginning of August, the World Bank's directors decided not to follow the recommendations from its "Extractive Industries Review" to stop financing fossil-fuel extraction projects. INFORSE and many others had urged them to follow this recommendation. The directors also decided not to follow all the review's proposals to ensure the involvement and compensation of people affected by fossil-fuel projects. They only agreed that the bank should have greater focus on how projects may impact local communities.

The World Bank has set a target for renewable energy of 200 million \$ for renewables per year +20%/year increase in the next five years. Unfortunately, this is still smaller than the bank's lending to renewables in the mid-90's, and it is only a fraction of approximately 3 billion \$ that the bank group lends in total annually for energy investments.

Read more: www.bankwatch.org, www.seen.org.

THEME: Sustainable Energy & Social Change

Edited by Gunnar Boye Olesen, INFORSE-Europe

Picture from the

INFORSE/Escanda Seminar

The production and generation of energy has as many social and political implications as it has environmental ones.

This theme looks at four different cases of how local communities are affected in both positive and negative ways by decisions relating to this production and generation. Sometimes these are decisions autonomously made by the communities themselves through their own energy based initiatives, sometimes they are decisions made by remote, centralised institutions or corporations.

These are all examples that were discussed at the INFORSE-Europe/Escanda Seminar, in Asturias, Spain, August 22-28, which brought together people working on practical renewables projects, with people involved in more overtly political activities, such as campaigns against fossil-fuel companies and climate change activism.

Many of the presentations and much of the documentation from the seminar (including the downloadable reader) can be found in the "events" section of the Escanda website www.escanda.org.



Renewables for Positive Social Change in Asturias

Asturias in the North West of Spain is a district with a long history in economic development through mining. The closure of the coalmines is reducing employment and gradually leading to a reduction of the population in the area. In addition, the area is becoming an importer of energy instead of an exporter. Use of renewable energy could contribute to change the negative trends, and make Asturias energy independent, maybe even an exporter. While the renewable energy resources are less concentrated than the former coal ores, the area has potentials for windpower, biomass, and mini + micro hydropower.

The results are expected next year. Then the municipality, as well as local people in the form of cooperatives can start to develop local investments in renewable energy. In its work Escanda is using contacts and information from the INFORSE network, such as information from the WELFI project on local financing of windpower (www.welfi.info)

Additionally, Escanda is involved in other community development activities, including teaching about environment and energy in schools, and the development of a local wireless internet.

Escanda's center



To lead to positive social changes, the ownership of renewable energy is essential. At present, the only renewable energy sources being used in the Lena municipality in Asturias are three mini-hydropower plants. They are owned and operated by companies outside the region, and all the power they produce is sold to the national grid. When organised in this way, the use of local resources does not contribute to the local economy.

To make renewable energy work for the local community, the mayor of the Lena municipality said 'no' to a proposal of a wind farm that would be owned by a national power company. In parallel to this, the municipality decided to cooperate with Escanda to develop renewable energy with local control. This work has started and Escanda is currently involved in pre-feasibility studies for renewable energy in the area, including assessments of potential windpower sites in the mountains.

What is Escanda ?

Escanda is an international collective based in Asturias whose name is made up of the Spanish acronym of "Social Collective Space for Self-management, Diversity and Autonomy."

We see Escanda as a space for the interaction and the cooperation between a fluid group of people, networks and movements that contribute to the self-organized and non-hierarchical emancipation of people suffering any kind of oppression.

We form part of the global movement against capitalism and our main objective is to promote a process of international training and skill-sharing on issues we like to work on, such as permaculture/organic food, alternative media, renewable energy and social change.

Read more on Escanda at www.escanda.org



Simple solar heaters provide hot water for showers for the Escanda team

WTO & Sustainable Energy

Will the World Trade Organisations (WTO) and its rules limit the development of sustainable energy, and its opportunities to create positive social changes?

While the impacts of the WTO on sustainable energy have been limited so far, negotiations on new rules can change this. In the WTO Working Group on Trade and Investment and the Working Party on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) proposals are being discussed that would impose new limitations for energy policies. In the former body, a proposed multilateral framework on investment could create new international rules affecting pre-establishment conditions, performance requirements and dispute settlement. In the latter, future discussions on government procurement and subsidies may well result in further rules to limit government policies.

New Rules Coming

Governments currently have some degree of freedom for investment policies to promote sustainable energy, though these are already somewhat constrained by the Agreement on Trade Related Investment Measures, the GATS, and bilateral and regional investment treaties.

Limiting energy policy options with new trade and investment rules would stifle experimentation at precisely the historical moment at which policy innovation is most necessary.

Electricity and gas restructuring is bringing sweeping changes to institutions, patterns of investment, and technological development in the sector. Governments will need maximal amounts of ingenuity, flexibility and policy space to integrate public benefits and a shift to sustainable energy into the energy markets.

While the discussions on WTO rules are progressing slowly, there was a breakthrough during the "Doha" round in August and the process is ongoing. Once agreed, WTO rules are very difficult to roll back if they turn out to harm local, sustainable development. Therefore this is probably the time to focus on the new proposals, in order to take action before it is too late.

Danish Windpower as Case

Some of the incentives Denmark used to launch its path-breaking wind energy industry may be inconsistent with the rules emerging in the negotiations. An important measure to promote windpower owned by local communities was a feed-in tariff of 85% of the consumer price of electricity. The tariff was only available for electricity from cooperatives of local electricity consumers. Such a discriminatory tariff that privileges locally owned cooperatives could conflict with national treatment provisions in GATS.

They specify that foreign service providers should receive treatment no less favourable than that accorded to domestic industries. Though cooperatives are non-profit entities, they are nonetheless part of the electricity market and may fall within the ambit of international trade agreements. Without this rule, much less local support could have been built for windpower in Denmark, and the success would have been less.

Argentinian Crisis as Case

During the Argentinian crisis in 2001 when the peso and the living standards fell considerably, the government of Argentina introduced a limit in the increase of electricity tariffs to protect consumers and required all rates to be paid in pesos rather than in US\$.

These laws were part of emergency legislation to ease the crisis; but they have lead to claims by the foreign investors to the Argentinian government in the order of 17 billion US\$ for "indirect expropriation".

The investors can do this because Argentina has signed bilateral investment treaties with USA and France, not because of WTO rules. By using these treaties the companies can complain directly to an international body and they expect that the treaties will overrule their privatisation contracts with the government.

This gives them a better position than national investors, which do not have these possibilities. The cases are still

What is the problem?

The main problems of the proposals being discussed are:

Trade and Investments:

- National Treatment, meaning that foreign investors have the same rights as national and local investors. The discussion is to which extent they should enjoy this right before they make their investment (pre-investment). This will limit any promotion of local investments e.g. in renewable energy.
- Limit "Performance Requirements", which is the rights of governments to set conditions to investments, e.g. to encourage technology transfer, make local employment, and stimulate domestic industries.
- Limit "Indirect Expropriation", which is a term that covers policies "equivalent to" expropriations. Companies are trying to use this limitation to ask compensation if environmental or other (maybe energy efficiency) regulation limits the profit of their investments
- Dispute settlement. The question is how unhappy foreign investors can complain about the treatment they receive. If they are allowed to go to an international dispute settlement body, this will often favour them over national investors that do not have this opportunity. Another question is if WTO rules overrule investments contracts (see Argentinian case).

GATS:

- GATS restricts the creation of monopolies in the service sector. Electricity transmission and distribution are often regarded as services, and as they are by nature monopolies, the strengthening of GATS can complicate the possible regulation of them.
- Subsidies are limited by GATS, and the use of them can be further limited with the new proposals. All policies for sustainable energy include subsidies in some way or another, and to limit them will reduce possibilities to support sustainable energy.
- Government Procurement. The proposals are to limit demands on purchases from public bodies, which could limit the use of e.g. green electricity.

“Carbon Dumping” Destroys Livelihood in Brazil

pending, but if Argentina is forced to pay the compensation it will be a hard blow against its economy that has not recovered from the crisis.

INFORSE Follow Up

We will follow up on the issue of WTO and sustainable energy with more details on the negotiations and potential problems.

This article is based on the report: “Will Investment Rules Shrink Policy Space For Sustainable Development?” Evidence From the Electricity Sector by Albert H. Cho And Navroz K. Dubash. Working Paper 16, South Centre, Geneva, 2003, www.southcentre.org.

The Kyoto Protocol’s flexible mechanisms allow polluters to generate credits abroad through projects such as monoculture tree plantations, hydroelectric projects, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

However current trends indicate that most projects will not be wind or solar and most investment will be concentrated on controversial and destructive enterprises. One example is monoculture plantations in Brazil that are supported by Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects.

The projects are environmentally and socially damaging for local people who suffer from the overuse of herbicides, water table disruption, and loss of access to lands. With the Kyoto Protocol’s Clean Development Mechanism such projects can be included as “sinks”, assuming that they absorb an amount of CO₂ from the atmosphere.

That NGOs have been criticizing these “sinks” projects is no news, but now it is becoming more clear how destructive they can be to the people living and working with them.

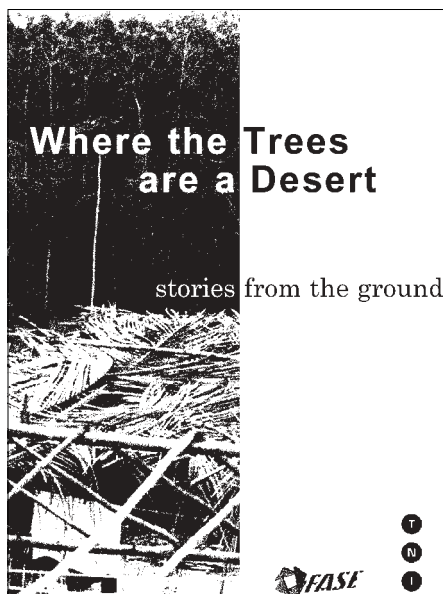
One of the projects proposed for CDM are eucalyptus plantations in Brazil by a

company named Plantar. This project have been analysed by Carbon Trade Watch* and the Brazilian organisation FASE. They found that the plantations are severely limiting the livelihoods of the people around the plantations and that the workers in the plantations have problems with the large amounts pesticides used to treat the trees and kill weeds. Thus, the plantations increase the poverty of many of the neighbours and of many former residents that have sold their land to the plantations. In addition it was shown that Plantar is pushing people in the area to sell their land to the plantations, often resulting in people ending in slums around nearby cities.

The wood from the eucalyptus is used for charcoal for iron production, where it replaces coal that is usual fuel for this process. While charcoal from trees is in principle carbon neutral, the way it is produced today is far from sustainable.

In addition to large companies as Plantar, many small producers make charcoal for the steel production. Unfortunately, some of the small charcoal producers use wood from virgin forests in their production, thereby contributing to deforestation.

Carbon Trade Watch is affiliated with Transnational Institute. Read more at <http://www.tni.org/ctw/index.htm>.



“Where the Trees Are a Desert” published by Carbon Trade Watch and the FASE, Brazil documents many of the detrimental effects that monoculture Eucalyptus plantations have in Brazil independent of their classification as CDM projects.

Gender and Energy: Coming Theme

One aspect related to sustainable energy and social development is the gender balance in all aspects related to energy supply, also renewable energy.

Even in progressive organisations such as Escanda and many other INFORSE members, there is still a big gender imbalance, particularly in the design and construction of alternative energy systems.

At the INFORSE-Europe/Escanda seminar was presented an interesting initiative “Windfang”, the first co-operative society in Germany running renewable energy plants exclusively owned and managed by female actors. Read more (in German) at www.windfang.net.

In the Sustainable Energy News we plan to feature a theme on gender and energy in a coming issue.

Please send us inputs for this theme “Gender & Sustainable Energy” to Judit Szoleczky: ove@inforse.org

INFORSE-Europe Sets Directions for 2005 & Elects Board

At the INFORSE-Europe Annual Meeting 2004, held on June 5 in Bonn, the Work Program for 2005 was agreed on and, for the first time, an acting board was elected.

It was decided that the activities will continue with work on EU energy and climate policies, visions for sustainable energy, and Distance Internet Education, as well as with school and education activities. New activities compared in 2004 include more success stories on sustainable energy and involvement in the European ECO-forum for east-west cooperation in Europe.

The coordinators Emil Bedi (FAE, Slovakia) and Gunnar Boye Olesen (OVE, Denmark) were re-elected.

The acting board elected consists of:

- Pete West, West Wales EcoCentre, UK
- Ion Zamfir, Earth Friends, Romania
- Ilona Jerzok, Polish Ecological Club
- Ursel Beckmann, Wohnhof Bramwish, Hamburg, Germany
- Vincent Buhagiar, MEEREA, Malta.



From left to right:
(top) Gunnar Boye Olesen, Vincent Buhagiar, Ursel Beckmann, Andrej Konachenkov, Ion Zamfir



(middle) Ilona Jerzok, Slavjanka Miladinova



(down) Vanya Walker Leigh, Emil Bedi, Kolya Abramsky, Toni Vidan

Pictures from the INFORSE-Europe Annual Meeting in Bonn, Germany June 5, 2004

Photos by Judit Szoleczky / INFORSE

INFORSE European Policy Seminars Nov. 2004

INFORSE-Europe is organizing two seminars for NGOs on EU policy for sustainable energy with focus on current policy issues and long-term targets.

INFORSE-Europe Seminar Brussels, November 9-10

The first one will be in Brussels, November 9-10, 2004, in cooperation with EUFORES and EREF. Among the planned topics are:

- EU support for renewable energy and energy efficiency (ALTENER, SAVE, research programs, etc.);
- effects of energy market regulations, in particular the electricity directive and the directive on renewable energy for electricity;
- implementation of the directive on renewable energy in transport;
- the need for an EU directive/initiative for renewable energy for heat;
- eco-design and energy efficiency directives under negotiations;
- presentation of the updated Vision 2050 for EU and European Renewable Energy Council's long-term strategies, and discussion of targets after 2010.

INFORSE-Europe Seminar Budmerice, November 25-27

The other seminar will be held November 25-27, 2004 at the Budmerice castle near Bratislava, Slovakia, in cooperation with AGREENET, and Energy Club in Hungary. A number of EU policy issues will be discussed at the seminar. Emphasis will be placed on structural funds as well as on other EU programs and policies with direct impact on the new EU countries. Of particular interest will be opportunities and barriers to using the funds to support sustainable energy rather than unsustainable development.

Both seminars are expected to reinforce INFORSE-Europe policies on sustainable energy, in cooperation with the other seminar partners.

Participation in the seminars is free for INFORSE-Europe members.



The place of the Seminar in November 25-27, 2004: the Budmerice castle of the Slovak literature fund near to Bratislava.

For the seminar in Budmerice, there will be limited travel support.

Please contact INFORSE-Europe for further information, e-mail: ove@inforse.org or see the website at www.inforse.org/europe.



EU Policy Update



*Edited by Gunnar
Boye Olesen,
INFORSE-Europe
Coordinator*

Renewables Targets and New Actions in EU

Just before the Renewables2004 Conference in June (see p.3), the EU Commission released a communication on development of renewable energy.

The first part is about the current targets for 2010: a target of 12% renewable energy in total energy consumption and 22% of renewable energy for the EU-15.

The forecasts of the Commission are that, with the current development, renewable energy will only cover 18-19% of electricity demand and 9% of total energy demand in 2010. This is on the condition that the targets in the recent biofuels for transport directive are reached.

To improve the situation, the Commission proposes:

- that the countries include external benefits (e.g., employment) and costs (e.g., environmental problems) in their energy policies.
- EU funding after 2006 must be used more for renewable energy. The structural and cohesion funds must be brought into play.
- EU should support the market introduction of innovative technologies that are demonstrated to work well. It should also support large-scale introduction of renewables in the EU energy programme after 2006.
- EU's energy program for 2003-2006, "Intelligent Energy for Europe", should support regional and local actions.
- public research and development programmes for renewables should be increased.
- with the agricultural reform, land with energy crops will be supported with 45€/ha.
- European Investment Bank (EIB) will increase its share of loans to renewables from 8% to 16% of energy lending.
- the Commission will develop a coordinated biomass plan in 2005.
- the Commission will take further steps to support the use of renewable energy in heating, eventually with a new directive including targets and/or demands for oil and gas suppliers also to supply biomass fuels.

- the Commission will develop guidelines for off-shore windpower to support this development.
- EU's development fund for developing countries will also be used increasingly for renewables.

The Communication recognises the call by the EU Parliament and the expert conference in Berlin, (January 2004) for 20% renewable energy by 2020. Unfortunately, they find that the effects of renewable energy, in particular its total economic effects, must be analysed further before decisions are made for targets after 2010. The Commission will evaluate the development of renewables. The first evaluation report will be released in Oct. 2005 to start a public debate and with the aim of setting targets in 2007 for targets after 2010.

The Communication, COM(2004)366, will be discussed among the EU energy ministers on November 29, 2004.

Read more about the proposals, as well as about INFORSE-Europe opinions on the targets and the communication, at www.inforse.org/europe.

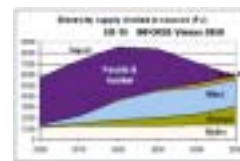
Energy Package

The EU energy ministers discussed the four proposals in the energy packet at their meeting in June, but only on the gas directive was a common position reached, with some details left to discussions among civil servants. For the guidelines of trans-European networks, the ministers reached "agreement on a general approach on the operative part" of the guidelines, but they have to discuss the issue again after getting the comments from the Parliament. No decisions were taken. The other proposals, the directive on energy services and end-use energy efficiency, as well as the problematic directive on security of electricity supply, are still under discussion.

The package will be discussed among EU energy ministers on November 29, 2004 according to Dutch EU Presidency.

More EU policy: www.inforse.org/europe

INFORSE "Vision 2050" for Belarus, EU-15, Poland



During the Renewables2004 Conference (see p.3), INFORSE-Europe presented a vision for a sustainable energy transition by 2050 for the 15 "old" EU countries, while just three weeks later the network presented a similar vision for Belarus at a conference in Minsk.

The Belarus Vision 2050 was made jointly with the Belarus NGOs Belaja Rus and International Academy of Ecology, and with the assistance of several Belarus experts. The vision for EU-15 is being developed further together with new visions for Poland and for the 10 new EU countries.

The development of the visions is supported by the EU and, for the Belarus vision, by the Danish Outdoor Council.

Descriptions on the INFORSE Vision 2050 are available at: www.inforse.org/europe; The Belarus Vision 2050 is also available in Russian.

K2R4 Finished & Small Loans



The new Ukraine nuclear power reactors Khmelnytskyi 2 and Rivne 4 have been finished by the Ukraine nuclear power company and are about to start up this summer/fall. The K2 is started and the start of R4 is expected soon. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the EU Commission approved in July loans of 42 and 83 mill. \$US, respectively, for safety upgrades of the reactors. This is substantially below the loans planned in 2000 of, respectively, 215 and 585 mill. US\$ for K2R4. INFORSE regrets this development and the Ukraine decision to finish these unnecessary reactors with inadequate provision for safety.

More info: www.bankwatch.org/k2r4

Publications



Wind Energy - The Facts, An Analysis of Wind Energy in the EU-25

The report is a comprehensive overview of wind energy's past, present and future in the EU-25 covering: technology, costs and prices, industry and employment, environment, market development and R&D. Emphasizing the role and integration of wind energy in liberalised European electricity markets. Many graphs and tables. It is new that there are wind resource estimations to all EU-25, but the wind atlas still only shows the EU-12.

By European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) in partnership with Risø National Laboratory, Denmark, University of Flensburg, Germany, Garrad Hassan, UK. It is an update of the 1st edition published in 1999. 2004, hardcopy 330 pages, CD, pdf files available gratis

More info: EWEA, Rue du Trone 26, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium. Ph/fax: +32 2 546-1940/-1944, e-mail: ewea@ewea.org, www.ewea.org



Renewable Energy in Europe Building Markets and Capacity

Individual chapters are dedicated to each technology, with sub-sections that focus on the technology itself, costs, industry characteristics and market development and future targets. There is a description of the technology or market situations in the EU accession countries as well.

Compiled by the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC) 2004, 176 pages 234x153mm, £35.00, ISBN 1-84407-124-3

More info: James & James Ltd, 8-12 Camden High street, London, NW1 0JH, UK. Ph: +44 20 7387 8558 Fax + 44 20 7387 8998. e-mail: jxj@jxj.com, www.jxj.com,



Air and the Environment

Highlighting important but often overlooked links that exist between problems that are usually considered individually, both with regard to their effects and their causes and remedies. Adapted from a Swedish book published by the Department of Applied Environmental Science in Goteborg.

By Per Elvingson & Christer Ågren 2004, 174 pages, gratis. Available both in html and pdf file ISBN 91-973691-7-9,

More info: The Swedish NGO Secretariat on Acid Rain, Box 7005, 402 31 Göteborg, Sweden, Ph: +46 31 7114515 Fax +46 31 7114620, info@acidrain.org, www.acidrain.org.

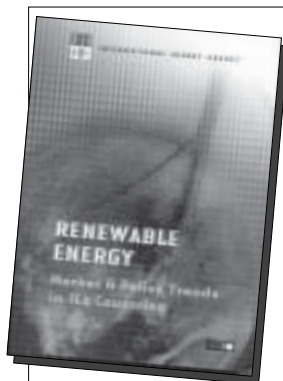


Wind Energy Local Finance (WELFI) - CD ROM

Basic Guidances. Countries: Germany, Denmark, France Spain. Results of an ALTENER project, coordinated by Hespul, France. The project was supported by the EU, and ADAME.

2004. Project partners: Hespul, BWE, Folkecenter, OVE, Axenne, HWEA, NEF, Ecoserveis.

More info: Hespul, 114, blv. du 11 novembre 1918, FR-69100 Villeurbanne. Ph/fax: +33 43747-8090/-8099, info@hespul.org, info@welfi.info, www.hespul.org, www.etd-energies.fr/welfi/en/index.htm



Renewable Energy, Market and Policy Trends in IEA Counties

Reviews for the whole IEA and for each country the renewable energy share, market trends and R&D

trends. It gives an overview of the different renewable energy policy instruments by countries.

It examines policies and measures that have been introduced in IEA countries to increase the cost effective deployment of renewables, reviews the objectives behind these policies, and evaluates the results. The aim is to identify best practices in order to assist governments in making future policy decisions.

2004, 672 pages, ISBN 92-64-10791-6 Price paper 100 EURO, pdf 80 EURO

Renewables Information 2004 -- with 2003 data + CD ROM

Update of the first publication of 2002. Analysis of renewables and waste energy supply, electricity production and installed electricity generating capacity in OECD countries. Detailed statistics. For most OECD countries, the data series begin in 1990.

2004, 204 pages, ISBN 92-64-10754-1 (Paper) 92-64-10756-8 (CD-ROM) Price: Paper 80 EURO, pdf 64 EURO, CD or online service 300 EURO.

More info:

International Energy Agency, Bookshop, 9, rue de la Fédération, 75739 Paris Cedex 15, France. Ph/fax: +331 40-576690/ -576775, e-mail: books@iea.org, www.iea.org.



Renewables in Russia - From Opportunity to Reality

Renewable energy can offer a real means to address some of Russia's energy and economic challenges. The book

identifies the first steps toward creating a Russian renewables market.

Includes renewable energy resource maps, which can be downloaded gratis.

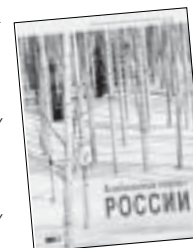
2003, 120 pages, ISBN 92-64-10544-1 Paper: 100 EUR, PDF 1 User: 80 EUR Paper + PDF 1 User: 120 EUR

RUSSIAN VERSION

7.4 MB pdf file gratis download from:

- <http://library.iea.org/dbtw-wpd/bookshop/add.aspx?id=168>

- <http://library.iea.org/dbtw-wpd/Textbase/nppdf/free/2003/RenewRussian.pdf>



Events

October 21-22, 22-24, 2004

IBEF, RENEXPO'2004, and IHE WoodEnergy 2004, Augsburg, Germany.
International Business Exchange Forum for Renewable Energy (IBEF)

More info: *Erneuerbare Energien, Unter den Linden 15, 72762 Reutlingen, Germany, Ph: +49 7121 3016 0 Fax: +49-7121 3016100 e-mail: bortz@energie-server.de, www.renewable-forum.com/*

19-20 October, 2004

Energy in Motion, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Energy and Sustainable Mobility. Organised by the Dutch EU-Presidency, Dutch Ministry of Transport, Public Works & Water Management and the Ministry of Economic Affairs.
More info: *www.eu-conference2004.nl*

October 31-November 4, 2004

The World Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition 2004, Windpower Asian, Beijing, China

More info: *World Wind Energy Association (WWEA), Chinese Wind Energy Association (CWEA), e-mail: registrar@wwec2004.cn www.wwec2004.cn, www.wwindea.org*

November 3-5, 2004,

Sustainability - Creating the Culture, Conference

Info: *Fiona Aitken, Sustainable Development Research Centre, The Enterprise Park, Forres, Moray, IV36 2AB, UK. Ph/fax: +44 1309 696807/-696860 Fiona@sustainableresearch.com, www.sustainableresearch.com*

November 8-10, 2004

INFORSE-Europe / EREF / EUFORES Policy Seminar, Brussels, Belgium

More info: *INFORSE-Europe, Gl. Kirkevej 82, 8530 Hjortshoj, Denmark. Ph: +45 86 22 7000, fax: +45 86227096, ove@inforse.org, www.inforse.org/europe*
See article on page # 8.

November 22-25, 2004

EWEC 2004, London, UK

European Wind Energy Conference & Exhibition, business, policy, science, technology
More info: *EWEC, The Renewable Energy House, 26 rue du Trone, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium. Ph: + 32 2 546 1980, Fax: + 32 2 546 1944, info@ewea.org, www.ewea.org*

November 25-27, 2004

INFORSE-Europe /AGREENET Policy Seminar, Budmerice, Bratislava, Slovakia

More info: *INFORSE-Europe, Gl. Kirkevej 82, 8530 Hjortshoj, Denmark. Ph: +45 86 22 7000, fax: +45 86227096, ove@inforse.org, www.inforse.org/Europe*
See article on page # 8.

November 13-15, 2004.

Ecovillage Designers Conference, Australia

Global Ecovillage Network (Oceania/Asia)
More info: *EcoLogical Solutions Consultancy, 59 Crystal Waters, 65 Kilcoy Lane, Conondale Qld 4552, Australia Ph: +61 7 5494 4741, Fax: +61 7 5494 4578 e-mail: info@ecologicalsolutions.com.au www.ecologicalsolutions.com.au*

November 21 - 27, 2004

International Conference on Making Renewable Energy a Reality, Port Harcourt / Obudu Plateau, Nigeria

More info: *One Sky - the Canadian Institute of Sustainable Living and the Canadian Environmental Network International Program, Ph/fax: +1-250-877-6030/-6040, www.onesky.ca, nikki@onesky.ca*

December 12-15, 2004

Energy and Development, Noordwijk, The Netherlands

Organised by the Dutch EU-Presidency, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment in with cooperation of the World Bank, UNDP.
More info: *www.energyfordevelopment.org*

February 19-28, 2005

PRITHVI 2005 - Global Eco Meet, Kerala, India

International seminars and exhibition, renewable energy, energy efficiency.
More info: *Er. Hari Kumar R Energy Management Centre - Kerala & Sub Centre of UNIDO INSHP An Autonomous Centre under the Department of Power, Government of Kerala, Thycaud P.O, Thiruvananthapuram 695 014, Kerala, India.*

Ph: +91471 232 3363 Fax: +91 471 232 3342

e-mail: *rhari@keralaenergy.org,*

www.prithvionline.org

March 2-3, 2005

World Sustainable Energy Days, European Pellets Conference, Photo Competition "Sustainable Energy" Wels, Austria,

More Info: *O.Oe. Energiesparverband Landstrasse 45, A-4020 Linz.*

Ph/fax: +43 732 7720-14380/ -14383

e-mail: *office@esv.or.at, www.esv.or.at.*

April 7-9, 2005

REAsia 2005, Beijing, China

2nd Asian International Renewable Energy Equipment & Technology Exhibition

More info: *REAsia, A-804, Huazhan Plaza, No.12 Yumin Rd, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100029, China. Ph: +86-10-8225-2695, Fax: +86-10-8225-2651,*

e-mail: *vivian@gracefair.com.*

May 9-11, 2004

RIGHT LIGHT 6, Shanghai, China

Int'l Conference on Energy Efficient Lightning

More info: *Right Light 6, c/o Borg & Co, Sveavagen 98, tr, 113 50 Stockholm, Sweden Fax: +46 8 673 04 44,*

info@RightLight6.org, www.rightlight6.org

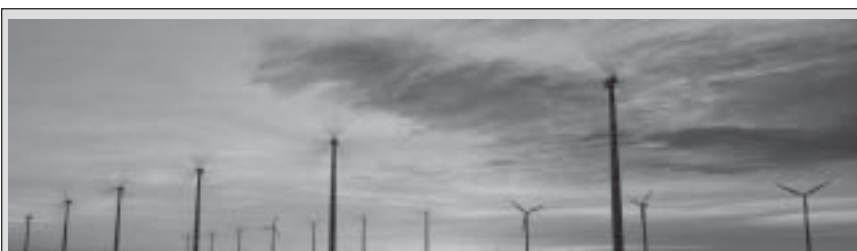
June 21 - 22, 24-26, 2005

ESTEC 2005 & Intersolar 2004, Freiburg, Germany

Gateway to European solar thermal markets

More info: *Raffaele Piria, ESTIF, the European Solar Thermal Industry Federation, and Intersolar, Ph: +32-2-54 619 38,*

Fax: +32-2-54 619 44, e-mail: info@estif.org, www.estif.org, www.intersolar.de.



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International Network for Sustainable Energy is an NGO network created at the Global Forum parallel event of the UNCED Conference in Rio in 1992.