

Minutes

of the

RET D Stakeholder Workshop 22 March 2006

At the Representation of the German State "Baden-Württemberg", Rue Belliard 60-62, Brussels

1. Welcome and Introduction to the Workshop

On behalf of Norbert Gorissen the Chair of RET D Executive Committee *Annette Schou*, Vice Chair of the RET D Executive Committee introduced to the background of the RET D Implementing Agreement and its visions and objectives. The workshop was attended by a number of participants from industry, associations, research institutions and other renewable energy experts.

2. The Changing Framework for Renewable Energy Technologies

Using the draft study on Barriers, Challenges and Opportunities (BCO) which was prepared as an RET D activity as a starting point Professor *Thomas B. Johansson*, Lund University, described the changing framework for renewable energy technologies. The need to deal with climate change and security of supply issues were highlighted as important drivers for further RE deployment. Developing targets and proper market structures for renewable energy were pointed out as important instruments to increase RE deployment.

3. The Need for Further International Cooperation and the Role of IEA

Antonio Pflüger, Head of the Energy Technology Collaboration Division of the IEA, described the role and organisation of the IEA and the progress of the existing IEA Implementing Agreements. Furthermore Antonio Pflüger presented global energy statistics and the WEO scenarios developed by the IEA and explained that the IEA has been assigned to help G8 deliver their Plan of Action on climate change, clean energy, and sustainable development.

4. Barriers, Challenges and Opportunities for the Deployment of Renewable Energy Techn.

Kaare Sandholt, EA Energianalyse, presented the draft BCO-study and introduced to the group discussions on barriers and opportunities for renewable energy deployment. Kaare Sandholt explained that the purpose of the study is to synthesise the information of the many existing analyses done within this field in order to provide the necessary background information for identifying the focus areas of the RET D. He emphasised that comments on the report are welcomed.

5. Morning Group Discussions: Barriers and Opportunities for Renewable Energy

Three groups dealt with the following questions:

- What are the most important barriers for renewable energy deployment?
- Who are the most important stakeholders to break down the barriers?
- And where are the greatest opportunities for renewable energy?

The moderator of each group presented the results of the group discussions.

The presentations from the groups showed many commonalities. Several discussions dealt with **information barriers** at different levels. Often policy makers and energy planners are not aware of the benefits of renewable energy compared to fossil fuel technologies – this accounts to the international and national level, but also to the local level (counties and municipalities) where many decisions on renewable energy are taken, e.g. concerning planning procedures. Also private stakeholders and the general public do not have sufficient knowledge about renewable technologies and their benefits.

An issue related to the information barrier, which was addressed by all groups, is the lack of market transparency and the fact that **markets prices** do not reflect the true cost of energy. Also it was pointed

out that politicians should be aware that renewable energy technologies are new entrants threatening vested interests of the conventional energy sector.

Decentralised renewable solutions face particular problems related to **grid issues, local planning and NIMBY issues**, which all groups identified as important issues to deal with. Increased harmonisation of regulation (approval procedures, environmental impacts assessments, spatial planning) through improved cooperation between different authorities were found to be important measures and to deal with energy infrastructure issues (grid codes, grid access, interconnection between markets) international cooperation between TSOs and authorities were encouraged.

To significantly increase the share of renewables many participants called for politicians to (further) develop **visions or targets** for renewable energy deployments and to develop policy solutions, which make investments in renewable energy technologies **attractive for private stakeholders**.

6. Strategies for the Deployment of Renewable Energy Technologies

Per Holmgaard from the Danish utility Energy E2 elaborated on concrete experiences with developing RE projects in different European countries. Conditions for grid connection and problems related to environmental impact assessments and regulation were identified as significant barriers. Preparation of grids, cooperation between TSOs on long distance transmission and involvement of local authorities in the national visions for renewable energy were pointed out as important to improve conditions for renewable energy developers.

7. Afternoon Group Discussions: Strategies for Renewable Energy Deployment

In the second group session participants were asked to come up with ideas for cross cutting activities to accelerate the markets for renewable energy and to identify what should be the main focus area of the RETD. The moderator of each group presented the results of the group discussions.

Benchmarking or provision of information on best practice policy measures were identified as an important focus area by all groups. Benchmarking could for example be used on support schemes for renewable energy, on internalising external costs or on grid connection issues.

Similarly, incentives to stimulate **international cooperation** between authorities and TSOs were pointed out as important in all groups and public private cooperation was raised as important to deal with grid integration issues and problems related to approval procedures. This could for example be done by establishing international task forces with representatives from authorities, TSOs and utilities.

Provisions of **unbiased quality information** on renewable energy technologies (costs, performance of technologies, resource potentials, consensus-workshops etc) were brought forward as another relevant focus area. It was discussed that this information should built on and take into consideration the existing work done within the IEA and the other implementing agreements concerned with renewable energy.

Information campaigns addressing issues such as the externalities (health impacts, climate change etc), and the scale of subsidies for conventional technologies and the benefits of renewable energy (rural development, employment, security of supply etc.) were also mentioned as a relevant activity for the RETD. The target group for such activities could be market players as well as policy makers at all levels (international, national and local).

Furthermore it was pointed out that activities should take into consideration that renewable energy technologies are deployed in **different markets** (electricity, heat, fuel, gas), which have special conditions and market barriers.

Activities related to **education and training** were also mentioned as a possible RETD activity. Target groups for education initiatives could be energy planners, policy makers or technicians dealing with renewable energy.

8. Conclusions and Next Steps

Annette Schou thanked participants and speakers for their contributions and informed that the RETD Implementing Agreement plans to establish a RETD stakeholder network. The RETD Implementing Agreement would like to build on the network which has been established now and encouraged participants to take part in the RETD activities to come. A web site will be established where information on the progress of the RETD will be made available.

The next steps will be to develop an Implementation Plan for 2006- 2010 with a gross-list of relevant activities and a more detailed Work Programme with prioritised projects to be carried out in 2006–2007. This will be done by mid-2006 on the basis of the input from the present stakeholder workshop and a round table meeting 6 April 2006 with the chairmen of the other renewable energy Implementing Agreements.

Also by mid-2006 an RETD operating agent will be selected, which will be responsible for carrying through the activities identified in the 2006-7 Work Programme.

The BCO study will be finalised based on the input from the present stakeholder workshop and a folder summarising its results will be prepared for distribution at the CSD-14 session in May 2006.