



1. Conference Themes & Objectives

The 1st High-level International JREC Conference in Brussels focused on the regional status and potential of renewable energy use, and on issues related viability and affordability of RES investments that would need tackling in order to increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

The opening session offered an opportunity to take stock of the status of renewable energy shares, strategies and policies in the respective regions. The second session dealt with identifying actions to increase the flow of public and/or private investments towards renewable energy technologies. During the final session, and based on the inputs from the respective Chairs and Co-chairs of previous sessions, high-level discussants and participants assessed and summed-up the principles actions proposed during the conference whilst deciding on the priorities and roadmap to be adopted by the Coalition.

The outcome of the conference also provided an important input for the organizers of upcoming regional and international Coalition conferences and for the World Renewable Energy Conference in Germany from June 1-4, 2004.¹

2. Side Events

Expert group meeting on renewable energy finance, June 3rd, 2003

For the purpose of preparing and follow-up of the June 4th meeting, the Commission established a small informal group of international experts on renewable energy finance. Experts from a wide range of financial and technology assisted the Commission in identifying, developing and/or validating “financial engineering solutions” for promoting renewable energies in particular in developing countries. They assessed possibilities for increasing synergies between existing public and/or private financial instruments and for increasing the leverage of public funds that are geared towards renewable energy investments, in particular for developing countries.²

¹ See www.renewables2004.de

² A first (preliminary) meeting of the EC Renewable Energy Finance Expert Group took place on 20 March, 2003 in Brussels whilst a second meeting was convened in 20 May also in Brussels. Invitations were extended ad personam.

Orientations on potential innovative financing mechanisms obtained during the expert group meetings were shared with interested stakeholders on June 3rd before reporting to the June 4th meeting (session 2) for comments and validation. The proposed directions received broad support and were included in the Conclusions from the Chair (Annex).

Taking account of these comments and orientations, concrete proposals will be prepared in time for the 2004 World Renewable Energy Conference whilst continuing to rely on the RES Finance expert group for input and validation and also sharing progress with the general stakeholders during upcoming JREC events.

Information meeting on related EU sponsored initiatives, June 3rd, 2003

An information session was hosted to provide a platform for the EU sponsored international initiatives related to the promotion of the global share of renewable energy to report on their objectives and status. The objective of this information session was also to clarify the relationship (and differences) between these initiatives and the Johannes Renewable Energy Coalition and to identify the synergies where possible.

The meeting was attended by programme managers, partners and beneficiaries of the respective renewable energy partnerships, in particular, the EU Energy Initiative (EU EI), the Mediterranean Renewable Energy Partnership (MEDREP), and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP).

3. More Information

More information on the conference and other JREC information notes can be found at <http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/ctf/home>. For additional information, please contact Thomas VERHEYE at the JREC Secretariat, European Commission (Thomas.verheye@cec.eu.int; Tel: ++32 (2) 295 96 39; Fax: ++32 (2) 296 99 70.

Annex

1st International Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition Conference, June 4th 2003, Brussels

Conclusions by the Chair

This Conference reiterated the strong commitment by all participants to deepen and further increase the momentum of the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition. Participants underlined the benefits that all countries can draw from enhancing the share of renewables in the energy mix in terms of enhanced security of energy supply and reduced costs for energy imports, better access to energy services including in rural and remote areas and environmental protection. Renewable energy can play an important role in strategies to reduce poverty. The importance of political commitment and a vision for the development of renewable energies as well as of specific regional and national targets supported by transparent monitoring procedures was stressed.

Strategic priorities

The following elements on the policy context emerged from the discussion:

- The commitment to set targets is at the heart of the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition and assures the accountability of policies to promote renewables. Therefore, targets should be adopted – eventually also for the longer term - and stocktaking of existing and new targets is desirable to be reported at the Bonn 2004 conference.
- Actions to stimulate the exchange of experience, adoption and implementation of accompanying policies such as trade based systems for renewable energy certificates, carbon credits (JI and CDM) as well as feed-in tariffs will benefit all countries and should be encouraged.
- The critical importance of stimulating regulatory frameworks conducive to the development of renewable energies.
- The importance to internalize the external benefits related to the use of renewable energy such as the mitigation of climate change, the protection of human health, the efficient use of natural and energy resources etc. and to establish a market value for environmental benefits. In this context energy subsidies and trade related matters need to be addressed.
- The responsibility of industrialized countries to further develop the markets for renewable energy technologies in order to bring down the costs - this will ease renewable energy investments both in developing and industrialized countries.
- The importance of looking at the broad portfolio of sustainable renewable energies including wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, hydropower and other technologies.
- Sustainable biomass based solutions are key in particular for developing countries.

Financing instruments

Accepting the need to strengthen the range of financial instruments in support of renewable strategies, the following elements on finance were prominently present in the discussion:

- the importance of focusing on renewable energy investments that are financially viable and manage risk appropriately;
- the increased role of market-based solutions while recognizing the particular circumstances of developing countries and the role of public funds, including ODA, as a complementary financial resource;
- the need to facilitate a closer cooperation between the finance world and project developers, and to exchange best practice;
- the attraction of equity fund constructions in which the public as well as the private sector participate;
- the importance of transparently managing equity funds to enhance their credibility and sense of ownership by the investors and by the general public;
- the importance of a regional approach in the use of funds.

Roadmap

To deliver on these priorities, the following road map has emerged including:

- Three key International Conferences: i.e.
 - The Danish RE Conference (17-19/9/03)
 - The 4th Session of the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (Austria, Jan/Feb 2004)
 - The German World RE Conference (1-4/6/2004)
- At least 4 Regional Meetings: i.e.
 - The Latin American and Caribbean Conference (Brazil, October 2003)
 - The African Energy Conference (Nairobi, Fall 2003)
 - The European Renewable Energy Conference (Berlin, Jan 2004)
 - The Asian Renewable Energy Conference (TBD, Fall 2003)
- Regional workshops
 - The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) meetings in Asia, Africa and Latin America (Fall, 2003)

To support the upcoming activities and to ensure an adequate level co-ordination the Commission accepts to function as a secretariat.

The Coalition welcomed the new members that joined on the occasion of this Conference, i.e. Botswana, Colombia, The Gambia and South Africa.