

CURES – Citizens United for Renewable Energy and Sustainability

Press Statement by NGOs attending the European Preparatory Conference for Renewables 2004

Berlin, 21 January 2004

Renewable Energies: EU's Credibility At Stake

The Berlin preparatory conference for Renewables 2004 »urges EU Institutions to start a political process of setting ambitious, time bound targets for increasing the share of renewables«. This challenge is now primarily the responsibility of the Commission and the Irish Presidency to show leadership before »Renewables 2004« in Bonn (1-4 June). Now these targets have to be translated into binding EU directives for promoting renewables and increasing energy efficiency.

The very reason for this conference was that clear targets for renewable energy could not be agreed at the Johannesburg WSSD in 2002. In Johannesburg EU countries and others launched the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition and Germany decided to organise Renewables 2004. This created a unique opportunity to promote the global development of renewable energy with clear targets and measures. This opportunity must not be wasted.

A major problem for progress has been the lack of commitment for the process by the EU Commission. In particular the EU's Commissioner for Energy Loyola de Palacio has continuously blocked clear targets for renewables. The fact that she did not attend this conference clearly illustrates the importance she gives to renewables. The Commission must change course so that the EU can lead a global process of transformation towards a sustainable energy system and fulfill its Kyoto Protocol Commitments.

To make Renewables 2004 a success it is absolutely necessary that the countries of the enlarged EU agree before the conference in June to:

- clear and ambitious targets for renewable energy in the EU countries. In addition to the existing target of 12% by 2010, a new target for 2020 of at least 25% renewable energy of the total energy supply should be agreed
- European input to international cooperation for new renewable energy must be defined. The EU countries should involve the other countries of the world into a long term cooperation for renewable energy. As part of that it is important to ensure that the World Bank as well as other Multilateral Development Banks and EU's own European Investment Bank stop the financing of fossil and nuclear energy and reserve their energy investments for new renewable energy and energy efficiency, as recently recommended by the World Bank's Extractive Industries Review. The same approach must apply to EU's regional development activities, including the Euro-Mediterranean action plan and cooperation with non-EU Europe.

The preparations for the Renewables 2004 are followed by a large number of NGOs all over the world in the network "Citizens United for Renewable Energies and Sustainability" (CURES). The CURES declaration is available at www.cures-network.org

The following NGOs support this statement:

Artefact, International Center for Sustainable Development, Germany
BUND, Germany

Central and Eastern European Bankwatch Network
Centre for Transport & Energy, Czech Republic
Climate Action Network – Central and Eastern Europe
Climate Action Network Europe
Ecoteam, Armenia
Forum Umwelt & Entwicklung, Germany
Foundation for Alternative Energy, Slovakia
Friends of the Earth International
Greenpeace International
Heinrich Böll Foundation, Germany
Hnuti Duha, Friends of the Earth, International Energy Brigade, Czech Republic
Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies, Japan
International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE)
Urgewald, Germany
WWF – International
Zelena Akcija, Friends of the Earth Croatia

Contact:

Jürgen Maier - Mobile: 0171-3836135