

## EUROPEAN PREPARATORY MEETING FOR BONN RENEWABLES CONFERENCE

19-21 January 2004 , Berlin

The Bonn International Renewable Energy Conference is being organised and hosted by the German government 1-4 June. Invitations to Ministers are going out from Chancellor Schroeder at present.

It is expected that other initiatives in this field – such as the 82 country ‘JREC’ (Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition) will bring forward new commitments that indicate forward momentum on renewable energy. ‘JREC’ represents governments that stated that they could go further than the agreements on sustainable energy negotiated at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Business and Industry are being encouraged to bring forward new commitments on sustainable energy.

### Political Outcome of Berlin preparatory conference

The main political outcome was a set of 10 recommendations reflecting implementation and political issues for Europe. While these were raised during the rather general conference, the formal conclusions were not negotiated or discussed in a UN sense.

The main goal of NGOs and clean energy trade associations such as EREC (European Renewable Energy Council) which represents EWEA and others was agreement on a 2020 target for renewable energy in the EU. Support is coalescing around a move from the current 12% of total energy consumption (22% of electricity) to 20 or 25%, depending on assumptions for energy efficiency. EU Business Council for Sustainable Energy (e5) also supports targets for 2020.

Conference conclusions supported an EU political process to set ‘*ambitious, time bound targets for increasing the share of renewable energy in final energy consumption addressing the medium (2020) and long term time frames.*’ It was further stated that a target of at least 20% of gross inland energy consumption by 2020 (in EU) is achievable.

There were over 200 participants. Businesses attending Berlin included: Airtricity, RWE, E.ON GE Wind, Vestas, DK and EU Wind Energy Assns, Mitsui &Co, Impax Capital, Climate Change Capital, EIB were there, as well as the EU and UK Business Councils for Sustainable Energy.

### Structure of the Bonn conference

It will take place over four days (1-4 June); the current programme envisages:

Day 1: multi-stakeholder dialogue – this is the official channel for different interest categories, including business and industry, NGOs etc, to raise and discuss key topics with senior officials. Exact format not yet defined.

Day 2: ‘Best Practices’ – this is an opportunity to present to senior officials best practice projects, policies, financial approaches, community engagement etc. Again this will involve the various ‘stake-holder’ groups.

Day 3 and 4: this is the Ministerial section: organisers intend to hold Ministerial roundtables on specific topics (again to be determined) and they will receive reports from the first day. There may also be the opportunity to present additional reports to Ministers, and they may create a CEO panel or opportunity for engagement.

Ministers are being invited by Schroeder at present, and there is the opportunity to suggest keynote speakers from the different groups eg finance or business. These senior representatives, if selected, would also receive a Ministerial invitation.

### **Political outputs**

At present there are 15 'Thematic Papers' that have been commissioned on the key issues for renewable energy and these are being condensed into a (10-15 page) 'issues paper' which will form the basis for political discussion, recommendations and input from interest groups. Topics include policy-frameworks, market development and financing.

The form of output is likely to be:

- A Ministerial Declaration on the importance of the development of RE....
- An international action plan which will pull together all the commitments and initiatives that are brought to the conference by governments, business etc
- Guidance for policies (may be based upon the issues paper, plus other issues raised)

Post Bonn: the German government views Bonn as a starting point for a future ongoing intergovernmental process. The REEEP is positioning itself to be an 'implementing mechanism', details to be determined.

A key issue is whether an 'international action plan' will simply be a conglomeration of all the different initiatives, or whether it will be streamlined to actually implement an identified set of priorities ie containing some kind of political strategy.

### **Business activities and opportunities**

A meeting was held in Berlin between business and the DG of the German Environment Ministry (BMU), Rainer Hinrichs-Rahlwes, and Dr Martin Schoepe, also BMU, coordinating business and finance input to the Bonn conference.

As well as outlining the 'multi-stakeholder dialogue' (MSD) process, the German government envisages a number of other ways for business to engage in the conference:

- Exhibition: space, however, is going to be limited in the main conference area and they are considering having a separate 'business forum' as well. Questions/concerns were raised over criteria for getting access to the main conference area;
- Side events: deadline is March 15 for applying for exhibition space and side events;
- Commitments: individual businesses or organised initiatives bring forward and present new initiatives on renewable energy: this could include purchase, production, procurement, supply type options, as well as projects I assume. The issue of the very short lead time (4 months) was raised, particularly when many businesses have never heard of this conference, or expectations of business input of this sort;
- Give input on the intergovernmental issue papers (via the M-S Dialogue), and/or potentially bring forward own/sectoral reports into the political segments;
- Participation in the Business Forum (no further detail at this stage ie whether this will have parallel sessions);
- Participation in the Sustainable Energy Finance Initiative (SEFI – a UNEP Energy initiative) which will be holding a parallel trade fair, and Forum for financiers and investors, on the first 2 days of the conference.

There is also the opportunity to suggest keynote speakers.

I am on the International Advisory Group for the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue process, ostensibly as someone with links into the finance sector; another finance name will also be added. World Business Council for Sustainable Devt (WBCSD) *and* the International

Chamber of Commerce (ICC); and Arturos Zervos, President of the European RE Council (EREC) are also on IAG for business.

Kirsty Hamilton  
International Policy Consultant  
UK BCSE