



Lubianka declaration Renewable Energy – From Policy to Reality

The members of the European Alliance Group (EA group) in the Committee of the Regions at their meeting in the Polish town of **Lubianka**, on 15 May 2012, reiterated their commitment towards promoting renewable energy and agreed the following declaration:

Are aware that there need to be fundamental changes in the way energy is produced, distributed and consumed and that fundamental shifts in societal behaviour as well as technological emphasis needs to take place to shift towards a low carbon economy and reduce the dependence from fossil fuels, taking into account the economic, social and environmental impact of such measures.

Regretfully note that the EU is far from achieving its 20-20-20 climate and energy targets; therefore, encourage Member States and local and regional authorities to do more in promoting the use of renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation;

Call on local, regional, national and European leaders to support and advocate a renewable energy vision towards 2050, with clear targets for 2030; **support** the ambitious goals of the Energy Roadmap 2050;

Recognise that wind, solar power, geothermal energy, hydroelectric, tidal and biomass will become more and more important in the EU's future energy supply, recognising the importance of transition fuels such as natural gas; **understand** that Member States and local and regional authorities may legitimately apply different energy mix;

Urge the EU and the Member States to find a solution to alleviate any negative effects, from an economic, financial and social point of view, a rapid diversification of the EU energy supply might have on countries that highly rely on the consumption and production of coal and fossil energy;

Acknowledge that massive investments are badly needed, notably to radically transform the current infrastructure, promote interconnections, enable smart grids and facilitate the integration of renewable energy sources produced at local level; **recall**, however, that investments on renewable energy and green technologies represent a source of economic growth and job creation that could lead to significant savings (also for households) in the long term;

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Demand that the key role of local and regional authorities in developing innovative energy solutions, promoting clean investments and encouraging behavioural changes and public acceptance, be matched with appropriate education, resources and governance tools;

Urge the Member States to provide local and regional authorities with adequate funding, despite the current period of austerity; and **call** on the European Commission to develop new decentralised financial instruments and earmark funding for the development of sustainable energy project at local level, within the structural funds;

Ask the Commission and Member States to facilitate access to finance and loans for LRAs and SMEs for green energy projects;

Call for clear frameworks and targets to be established in order to give certainty to investors and the market in the field of renewable energy and to facilitate the uptake of sustainable energy solutions in rural areas, which have significant untapped potential when it comes to providing for their own energy needs from different sources;

Believe that the use of renewables shall contribute to addressing energy poverty not only in the EU but also in the developing countries;

Recall the importance of inter-regional cooperation and **reaffirm** their commitment to join forces with other actors through setting up partnership initiatives in order to promote the uptake of renewable energy projects and facilitate the transition towards more sustainable energy models; **encourage** the use of instruments such as the Covenant of Mayors in promoting renewable energy policy implementation;

Instruct its president to forward the declaration to the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council.
