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East of England Regional Assembly
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Report to North Sea Executive Committee

CPMR Energy Group

The Energy Groups last meeting was held in Brussels in February 2009

The main issues were the future work programme for the group

Key issues are

1. to maintain oversight on how the Energy/Climate change packages of the European Commission will be implemented and in particular the impact these proposals will have on peripheral and maritime regions.
2. The issues arising from Biofuels and how peripheral maritime regions can benefit from the move towards biofuels and bioenergy.

The energy group is planning a workshop programme to target specific EU legislation, or a specific phase of EU policy framing.

The first workshop to be organised should concern the theme **“How can the EU, through its policies, ensure that innovation in maritime energy technologies increasingly benefits peripheral maritime Regions that are concerned by such technologies? “.**

This workshop’s purpose would be to target the preparatory work to the 8th Framework Programme (post 2013). It should endeavour to highlight the difficulties met by peripheral maritime regions in implementing the present FP7 legislation, and make suggestions for improvement which will then be conveyed to EU Institutions.

It is proposed that this workshop takes place in the second half of 2009, and that it should be organised in a region having a practical experience in the matter (much as the workshop on offshore energy, which took place in November 2008 in Aberdeen).

The second workshop to be organised, in the course of 2010, should concern the theme **“Implementing the Energy/Climate change package in peripheral maritime regions: what difficulties, what opportunities?”**

This workshop could usefully focus on the means necessary to implement the package, bearing in mind in particular the ongoing negotiations on the future of the Structural Funds post 2013.

A third workshop to be organised should concern the theme “Producing and distributing bio-fuels in peripheral areas”.

The Steering Committee’s view is that this theme should be somewhat broadened to the issue of fuel distribution and fuel costs in peripheral regions, which seems to be of great concern to many CPMR members. The question could be raised whether the production of biofuel in peripheral areas may help their inhabitants to benefit from lower fuel prices.

Finally the Group had received an approach from AREVA one of the companies involved in both the Renewables and Nuclear industries about possible areas of co-operation

The Energy Group has agreed that joint lobbying efforts on political issues such as the grid should be undertaken primarily via professional associations (e.g: EURELECTRIC, etc.) representing the industry as a whole at EU level, rather than with an individual player,

That exchanges with AREVA Renewables should be welcomed in the framework of workshops or seminars, but that to ensure a balanced approach, contacts should be sought with other firms too, since there are many players in that field

That contacts should be pursued with AREVA so as to organise a technical visit of a nuclear facility

Kevan Lim
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