

# CPMR “Energy” Working Group

## Minutes of the Steering Committee, Brussels 10/01/2007

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### Present:

- Enrique Diaz Moreno (Region of Navarre)
- Maria Lozano Uriz (idem)
- Begona Urien Angulo (CENIFER)
- Panos Coroyannakis (IISLENET)
- Derek MacKim (Comhairle nan Eilean)
- Tim German (Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership)
- Harm-Jan Bouwers (Fryslan)
- Lars Sandstrom (Norrbotten)
- Linnéa Lundström (Västerbotten)
- Jean-Didier Hache, Coordinateur (CPMR)

The Meeting Agenda proposed by Jean-Didier HACHE was accepted.

### **1) Review and follow up to actions undertaken in 2006**

Firstly, Jean-Didier Hache carried out a historical overview of the actions undertaken by the “Energy” Working Group (EWG) in 2006, in particular:

- the seminars organised in Cornwall (2005), in the Western Isles and in Leeuwarden,
  - the “Energy for the Periphery” Conference which took place in Navarre in October 2006.
- As well as various documents produced by the EWG over the course of the year.

#### **1.1 Navarre Conference**

The EWG carried out an overview of the results of the Navarre Conference.

The general consensus of opinion of those who took part in this event was that it was a success. “Feedback” collected in has been very positive, for the organisation as much as the content.

The Steering Committee would like to stress its gratitude to the Region of Navarre and to CENIFER, represented by Begoña Urien.

Tim German seized the opportunity to underline that in the future, the CPMR should concentrate more on the debates surrounding energy policies themselves, and less on the exchange of experiences.

Panos Coroyannakis reported on the interest shown by the Italian State level (unless mistaken by the Ministry of the Environment) who would like to promote a sustainable energy policy through Regional Authorities. Panos Coroyannakis spoke about the usefulness of developing links with the private sector, through electricity companies (in differentiating production, transport and distribution).

Enrique Diaz underlined the usefulness to be seen in expressing a regional point of view, especially as the States, on occasion, ignore the latter, or even take a different stand.

Harm-Jan Bouwers and Lars Sandstrom also support the usefulness of being more interested in the conception of policies, and in the promotion of the regional dimension.

## **1.2 Administrative questions relating to obtaining community co-financing for the Navarre Conference.**

Begoña Urien gave a progress report on expenses, and pointed out the various administrative obligations of the members of the Steering Committee; namely:

- To submit expenditure forms (up to the maximum of the anticipated allowance for each participant) to Begoña Urien, during the period from 01/01/06 to 28/02/07 (participants in the seminars and conferences of Stornoway, Leeuwarden, Pamplona and the meeting held in Brussels).
- Send a photocopy with a copy of receipts and/or proof of purchases, and keep the originals so that they can be produced in the case of a control.
- Also send the minutes and working documents of these meetings to Begoña Urien, as well as the satisfaction forms, duly filled in by the participants of the Navarre Conference and the list of participants.

## **1.3 Morgan Report**

Jean-Didier Hache informed the members of the Committee of the actions which have been carried out with regard to the European Members of Parliament on the occasion of the Morgan Report on the Commission's Green Paper, and presented the various amendments suggested by the CPMR which have been adopted.

## **1.4 Meeting with Commissioner Piebalgs**

The Steering Committee is informed about the steps which have been taken to officially present the results of the Navarre Conference to Commissioner Piebalgs. A meeting which should have taken place at the end of 2006 could not materialise due to the restraints of the calendars and travel arrangements of various participants. An alternative date is currently being looked into.

## **2) EWG Work Programme for 2008**

### **2.1 Composition and operating mechanisms of the Steering Committee**

Jean-Didier Hache recalled the need to ensure that the EWG Steering Committee covers all the EU's geographical zones, and therefore that all the CPMR Geographical Commissions are represented.

#### **A general discussion followed, where it emerged:**

- That historically, the Steering Committee was made up, on a voluntary basis, of a small number of Regions particularly concerned by that question, but at the moment there is no precise coincidence between the structure of the CPMR and the composition of the Steering Committee;
- That it matters that competences and motivation are the key elements of participation in the Steering Committee, rather than the desire for it to be modelled strictly on a political structure;
- That the members of the Steering Committee are anxious that the latter is, before everything, a place of reflection ("think tank") intended to prepare the CPMR positions in the field of Energy, whilst being understood that the actual policy decisions themselves belong to the CPMR Political Bureau and General Assembly.

Whilst taking account of the previous points, Jean-Didier Hache will remind the Executive Secretaries of the different CPMR Geographical Commissions that they have the possibility to be represented within the Steering Committee, and if that is the case, will ask them to designate a Region to that end; the Region can be one of those already represented within the Steering Committee, or another Region.

#### **Communication methods between members of the Steering Committee**

Some Steering Committee members emphasized that the organisation of videoconferences will enable the number of trips to be reduced for some of them.

There are proposals to participate in an experiment with the help of Webcams and SKYPE software.  
There are plans to carry out a test on the 8 February at 2pm (Brussels time).

## **2.2 Policy Work programme for 2008**

Jean-Didier Hache submitted a certain number of areas where the EWG could continue its work to the Steering Committee. It is proposed that these themes be submitted for consultation by all CPMR Member Regions, then, according to the responses and comments received, to submit a proposal to the CPMR Political Bureau at its meeting in Florence on 16 February. The CPMR Member Regions will also be asked if they wish to host an event on a theme. The Steering Committee will discuss, during their next meeting, the methods for delivery of adopted proposal(s).

At the end of the debates, the following proposals were submitted (regrouped here in two large categories in order to ensure a certain homogeneity to the difficulty posed):

### **A – How to reconcile the implementation of necessary means in the fight against the causes of climate change, and the strengthening of territorial cohesion?**

- a) How can CO<sup>2</sup> emissions be reduced in transport (maritime, air, road) without penalising Peripheral Maritime Regions?
- b) How could the CO<sup>2</sup> emissions certificate market have a positive impact for Peripheral Maritime Regions?
- c) What are the impacts – positive or negative – of nuclear development for Peripheral Maritime Regions?

### **B – How to effectively promote sustainable energy development at a Regional level?**

- a) Can the harmonisation of planning and authorisation practices contribute to the promotion of a sustainable energy policy?
- b) Which policy promoting sustainable energy research and development can effectively contribute to promote regional competitiveness?
- c) How can EU policies support the use of local resources to promote a sustainable energy policy in Peripheral Maritime Regions?

Moreover, the usefulness of a reflection on the impact of the opening up of the gas and electricity markets to competition in the Peripheral Maritime Regions was raised. However, EU legislation does not foresee these markets being totally opened up across the whole of Europe until during 2007. It is considered that it is still too premature to focus on such an analysis. This will therefore be proposed at a later date, when comparable elements from across the whole of the EU can be made available.

## **2-3 Awareness of the EWG's work**

Panos Coroyannakis raised the necessity to heighten the awareness of the general public to the CPMR's work in the field of Energy.

He suggested giving particular attention to two events which benefit from a large audience:

- The "Open Days" which take place in Brussels in autumn, in the offices of various European Regions. An event focusing on the regional dimension of sustainable energy could also be proposed for the 2007 programme; the venue is to be established. Maria Lozano proposed carrying out the necessary research and steps accordingly, on the basis of the representation of Navarre in Brussels.

- The ManagEnergy Conference which also takes place in Brussels, traditionally towards the end of January (this would be the 2008 event). Panos Coroyannakis, as leader of the ISLENET network, is part of the ManagEnergy Conference working group. He proposed acting as the point of contact between ManagEnergy and the CPMR, and to study potential action in this area.

#### **2.4 Actions with regard to the European Parliament and Institutions**

Jean-Didier Hache reported on the work programme which was sent to him by our European Parliament contacts:

The Industry and Energy Commission of the European Parliament will be strongly involved in the revision of the Energy package which must be published on 10 January by the Commission and which will include about ten documents (see [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/energy\\_policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/energy_policy/index_en.htm)).

To quote but a few: a roadmap on the development of renewable energies, an inquiry on the network interconnection plan, an evaluation of nuclear industry, of biofuels, a communication on fossil fuels, a DG Competition report on sectoral surveys in the gas and electricity markets, a report on the delivery of the Directive on biofuels, as well as on the delivery of the Directive on green electricity, a strategic plan on energy technologies, etc.

These proposals must be brought before Parliament, and it is advisable to act in this respect.

During the year, the Commission should also submit a proposal concerning the capture and storage of CO<sub>2</sub>.

These issues should be followed.

#### **2.5 Marseille Conference**

Jean-Didier Hache informed the Steering Committee members of a first international convention for a regional and local approach of development which is to take place in Marseille in March 2007. A seminar focusing on Energy should be held on this occasion.

#### **2.6 Next Steering Committee Meeting**

The next Steering Committee meeting will take place in Brussels on the 20 March 2007.