

EDITO



"[...] only an approach based on close proximity with consumers, and on both quantitative and qualitative understanding of their needs, can lead to efficient energy management". This principle, extracted from the statutes of FEDARENE published in 1990, still retains all of its pertinence and topicality today, almost 20 years later!

The energy factor, which already formed a part of European construction, is more than ever a central issue for European companies. Its environmental, social, economic and even geopolitical repercussions weigh heavily today on the future of Europe, its citizens and beyond. The urgency of systemic reform of energy management is evident, not only with regard to the risks associated with the current situation (environment, supply, etc.) but also to the opportunities resulting from such reform, because it is finally recognised that investing in better management and cleaner energy will also have beneficial consequences for our economies and the employment.

The implementation of a sustainable European energy policy does not mean we can ignore giving more consideration to local and regional players. The "Covenant of Mayors", a new initiative of the European Commission, will contribute to increased visibility of efforts in that respect. At the heart of the Secretariat of the Covenant, FEDARENE will maintain equilibrium and establish effective co-ordination between towns and regions. In fact, the towns cannot be separated from their regional contexts. It is equally urgent to guarantee adequate finance for the Covenant, to support the efforts of the local and regional utilities.

Nevertheless, it is necessary to go further. Without prejudice to national sovereignties and in respect of the principle of subsidiarity, the local and regional dimensions must be incorporated within the legislation of the Union in terms of energy. The recent "Second Strategic Energy Review" demonstrates clearly that the political attitude of the European institutions does not give regional and local players the place that they deserve. This seems to present a significant opportunity for local and regional players and their organisations to develop a real "bottom up" approach to the European energy policy.

Michel Grégoire

Director of Sustainable Building - Walloon Region (BE)
Treasurer - FEDARENE

FEDARENE takes part in the Covenant of Mayors Secretariat

[Read more... \(p.4\)](#)

FOCUS on

Regional Strategies for Sustainable Energy

The European Commission's "Second Strategic Energy Review" aims to address the - rather timely - issue of the security of energy supplies. However, the solutions proposed fail to give 'energy efficiency' the role it deserves and also overlook the role of local and regional stakeholders. These two observations are at the heart of the report on the Second Strategic Energy Review drafted by Jean-Louis Joseph, FEDARENE president and member of the Committee of the Regions.

This issue of the FEDARENE Info further illustrates the importance of regional action for sustainable energy with two outstanding examples, from France and Sweden.

The Covenant of the Mayors and the upcoming EUSEW 2009 will provide promising opportunities to give more visibility to local and regional energy action. [Read more about FEDARENE's active involvement in both initiatives!](#)

Reporting on Second Strategic Energy review and the EPBD recasting



Only two years ago, the first "Strategic Energy Review" (SER), published by the European Commission, paved the way for some crucial steps at EU level, towards a more sustainable European energy policy. The SER indeed introduced the idea of the "3x20" objectives (20% of energy from renewable sources, 20% more energy efficiency, 20% less CO2 emissions by 2020), later confirmed by the European Council and rapidly - but only partially - translated into new legislative instruments.

In November 2008, the Commission tabled the second SER, focusing on the security of supply. As demonstrated, once again, by the most recent developments at international level - as well as within some members states such as France - energy security is undoubtedly a very important issue. There is considerable variance between member states with regard to this issue. These, sometimes historical, differences call for co-ordinated action at European level in order to reduce imbalances, tighten the links among the partners and reduce the risks for the Union as a whole.

However, this should not result in the EU

leaving aside its previous commitments. The 3x20 objectives have to retain a central focus. The benefits attached to them are not only environmental but are also social and economical. In addition, the 3x20 would also greatly contribute to the reduction of Europe's energy dependence.

Achieving the 3x20 requires consistency and long-term political will. In this respect, it is highly disturbing to see that the objective of reducing energy consumption by 20% is the only objective among the "3x20" that has not yet been translated into a binding legal instrument. Energy efficiency should be the keystone of EU policies in this field!

Far from giving it the place it deserves, the second SER only ranks energy efficiency 4th out of 5 "priorities". It does not foresee any major legislative proposal to create a binding obligation to achieve the 20% energy efficiency. Instead, it proposes a series of measures that are certainly important but lack co-ordination and ambition while failing to address some key sectors such as transport or industry. The figures provided by the Commission speak for themselves as they demonstrate that, even if all (existing and new) measures are fully implemented, the EU will rely on an entirely external factor to reach its targets - the raising of oil prices. This demonstrates a clear lack of political will.

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IN BRIEF



POINT CARDS FOR BIODIESEL USERS IN SPAIN

The Provincial Energy Agencies of Burgos and Ávila (Spain) have developed an innovative bio-diesel 'points card' system for use in petrol stations that supply biofuel in their provinces. This initiative is carried out within the framework of the PROBIO Project (Integrated promotion of the biodiesel chain), an Intelligent Energy project developed in 2007. These two agencies are distributing "points cards" among citizens (as they consume biodiesel, they can accumulate points that will be exchangeable for various gifts and tax cuts during 2009). The initiative has achieved very good acceptance among the citizens of the two provinces. Another FEDARENE member, Regione Abruzzo/ARAEN, is also part of the PROBIO project.

Intelligent Energy  Europe

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PRESERVE: REGIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM



Preserve (*Peer Reviews for Sustainable Eco-Regions via Europe*) is a European project

(Interreg IVC) implemented by a consortium led by the Assembly of European Regions and composed of fourteen European organizations among which the Avila Energy Agency. The main objective of the project is to contribute to improved effectiveness of regional development policies and specifically of regional policies that support sustainable tourism, whereby cultural heritage is seen as an endogenous factor of economic development. Based on jointly defined methodologies, the partners will exchange best practices in the field, mainly through on-site peer reviews and exchange seminars. The peer review instrument encourages a true mutual learning process. The project activities will also lead to policy recommendations and regional action plans that reconcile ambitions for modernisation and increased competitiveness with issues of sustainability and the preservation of cultural heritage.

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ONE MORE STEP FOR BIOENERGY IN THE REGION OF CASTILLA Y LEÓN (SP).

The regional Government of Castilla y León is currently developing a regional planning for the bioenergy resources. This bioenergy regional plan will list the most relevant measures for the optimal exploitation of bioenergy in the region. The plan will take into account the following dimensions, as guiding principles: rural development and social dimension, environmentally-friendly and sustainable development, energy diversification, economical and business development and use of regional resources.

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An important step: Recasting the Energy Performance in Building Directive

Under the measures proposed in the field of energy efficiency, it is necessary to highlight the proposed recasting of the Energy Performance in Building Directive (EPBD), which is definitely a step in the right direction. By abolishing (or lowering) the thresholds for the application of the directive's provisions (previously set at 1000 sq.m.), by reinforcing the system of energy performance certificates, by incorporating "technical building systems" (including, among others, heating/cooling systems), by laying down the first building blocks for the harmonisation of energy performance standards across Europe, the proposed recasting undoubtedly strengthens the existing Directive. However, the main problem so far encountered with the EPBD has been its extremely slow transposition and implementation by the member states. Only 22 of 27 had declared full transposition by the time the recasting was published and, in most cases, the actual situation on the ground had not changed significantly. The main challenge ahead will be to speed up the implementation process! Consequently:

- There is a need for a rapid decision at European level. The European institutions should take all necessary measures to ensure a quick and ambitious decision on the proposal from the Commission and

swift transposition into national law by member states.

- Sound implementation crucially relies on 2 elements that are not adequately emphasised in the proposed recasting: The training (of professionals from the building sectors, certifiers, etc., who will make things happen) and financing (in order to enable individuals, public authorities, companies, etc., to improve the energy performance of their buildings). The proposal of the Commission must be improved in that regard.

- The regional and local authorities have to be involved as closely as possible in the process, not only because they themselves own, manage and occupy buildings but also because they are the only ones in a position to work directly with the citizens. They can therefore raise awareness and support the development of projects to improve the energy performance of each house and every building in all of the regions and cities across Europe.

The above summarises the main points of a draft report that I have submitted to the Sustainable Development Committee of the Committee of the Regions. The report has greatly benefited from the expertise of FEDARENE members. I hope that, through the Committee of the Regions, this report will contribute to making the voice of the regional players in the field of energy heard in the policy debates at European level.

Jean-Louis Joseph
FEDARENE President
Member of the Committee of the Regions

The Rhône-Alpes (FR) mountain territories: On course for more autonomy and energy security

In December 1999, a storm shook France and took down three years harvest of wood as well as thousands of kilometres of the electricity network. Paradoxically, dozens of homes situated within sight of a nuclear power station were without electricity for ten days. While energy policies are being established worldwide within large industrial groups, the territories are having difficulty in gaining benefit from their resources and in providing perennial comfort for their inhabitants.

The elected representatives of several alpine areas - and particularly of the regional nature parks - involve themselves more and more in local energy policies based on a balance between energy choices and the interests of local players and their environment. To promote ambitious policies, they approach nearby energy operators who share these objectives and can provide suitable resources.

The regional nature park of Pilat and SIEL (the energy association of the Loire) have, in this way, established a fruitful partnership to reduce consumption and put in place local methods of production. The procedures for reducing electricity consumption are prioritised by the association in zones where the network is fragile but the park has implemented a widespread procedure to reduce all consumption throughout

the territory. On behalf of the park, the association has conducted an audit of all of the



existing energy resources of the communes and organised a management service for them as well as helping them with already planned improvements.

The park has a forestation level of 60% and a strong wood industry involving several players. Over the last 10 years, its elected representatives have developed a wood energy subsidiary by making use of its waste and experimenting with enhanced forestry exploitation by supplying wood directly produced in the forest. Together with the park, the association has experimented with the putting in place of wood heating networks and now offers all of the communes the study, technical and financial transport and the fine tuning of installations. The elected representatives of the smaller communes, without internal technical resources, also have the possibility of easily

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realising their projects and the park now totals 10 MW. The association supports the park with hydro-electric power and, in 2008, accepted the transport of every viable energy production operation proposed by the communes. It studies the putting in place of equalisation mecha-

nisms to ensure balance throughout the territory.

This example has been followed in other areas and shows that local players are capable of mobilising themselves in the field of energy with a global vision of their developments.

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Exploring the energy future of Norrbotten (SE)

Located in the northern part of Sweden, the county of Norrbotten has an extremely specific energy situation. Covering an area of almost 100,000km² (similar to Hungary or Portugal) for only around 250,000 inhabitants, it combines an energy intensive industrial sector (mining, steel and pulp industries), a cold climate and long-distance transport needs, resulting in very high energy intensity and a very high rate of carbon dioxide emissions per capita. On the other hand, the county has great potential for renewable energy resources (wood energy, hydro/wind power and natural cooling).

This high energy consumption is a challenge for the county. Therefore, in 2007, Nenet (the energy agency, Norrbotten Energy Network), in co-operation with Dr Joakim Lundgren (PhD) from Luleå University of Technology, undertook a study to provide a sound basis for the development of a regional energy and climate strategy, with the following objectives:

- ◆ Creation of new industries and new jobs;
- ◆ Increased use of local renewable energy and the phasing out of existing fossil fuels;
- ◆ Increased use of locally produced energy crops fostering a lively and sustainable rural district;
- ◆ Increased use of organic waste;
- ◆ Increased energy efficiency in the region and decreased environmental load locally, regionally and globally;
- ◆ Adaption to future climate changes.

The report presents 4 different scenarios for the county's energy situation up to 2025 and analyses how to make the best use of the renewable potential to meet the demands of the county.

Towards Norrbotten Energy Strategy 2025

All scenarios show an increase in the total demand for energy in Norrbotten up to 2025, closely connected to an increase in demand for heat in industry. In the housing and service sectors, the heat demand is expected to decrease although the electricity consumption in households is likely to increase. However, it should be relatively easy to phase out the use of oil in the housing sector.

Solar heating can make a valuable contribution to the heating of tap water and the county offers excellent conditions for the

use and seasonal storage of natural heat and natural cooling on a large scale (large supply of snow in winter time).

A very interesting point made in the study is that it shows climate change could have positive effects on both energy consumption and supply in the county. Increased water flow could mean more electricity from hydro power, increased outdoor temperatures would foster the growth of biomass and decrease the need for heating in buildings. Of course, these "benefits" come along with new risks (forest fires, storms, etc.).

The study also shows that, even though the use of bio-fuels will increase from 1.5 GWh today to an estimated 950 - 1850 GWh by 2025 (depending on the scenario), the county of Norrbotten has the potential to be self-supporting in biofuels for transport and even to become a net-exporter. This development will cause increased pressure on the county's

forests. It will therefore be important to develop biomass resources (cultivating energy crops on areas closed down for agriculture, increased use of forest residues, etc.)

The study also analyses the potential for renewable electricity. The additional contribution of wind power is estimated to be some 10TWh per year. Increased water flow together with efficiency measures at hydro power stations could generate an extra 2TWh annually. The study further asks whether this additional "green" power should be exported outside the county in the form of electricity or could it be better used locally.

As a conclusion, the report states that the county has real opportunities to achieve its vision of a fossil-fuel-free Norrbotten if heavy industry is excluded. It will however require incentives and concerted efforts at national, regional and local level.

A regional partnership between the County Council, county administration and the Association of Local Authorities has the responsibility of taking the regional strategy for energy and climate process further. Priority is given to hydro power, wind power and bioenergy. An action plan is due in the course of this year (2009).

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IN BRIEF



REPRO: REGIONAL ENERGY PROFIT CLUSTERS - Economic Growth, competitive advantages and employment incentives in regions through regional energy profit clusters

The IEE project, Regio Energy Profit, aims to gain best regional economic benefits from sustainable energy systems. The project proves the economic benefits of sustainable energy structures and identifies best practices in order to enhance management structures and policy instruments in five European regions. The analyses, applied methodology and measures developed are available on the website www.regioenergyprofit.eu and the final results will be presented at a European Conference in the autumn of 2009. Another FEDARENE member, Energikontor Sydost (Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden), is also part of the REPRO project.

Intelligent Energy Europe

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SUPPORTING REGIONAL AND LOCAL ENERGY STRATEGIES IN UPPER AUSTRIA

The Upper Austrian programme "EGEM - Energiespargemeinden" ("energy efficient municipalities") supports municipalities in developing and implementing local energy strategies. Each municipality sets itself objectives in the field of energy efficiency and develops and implements an action plan. So far, 33 municipalities have implemented an "EGEM project" while another 30 are preparing one. The municipalities are supported in this process by the regional energy agency, O.Ö. Energiesparverband, and can also receive up to 20,000 in financial support.

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REGBIE+: FINAL CONFERENCE AT THE WSED IN WELS (AU)

The conference "Regional Biomass Action Plans" takes place on 25th February 2009 in Wels/Austria in the framework of the World Sustainable Energy Days (www.wsed.at) annual international conference, organised by the Upper Austrian energy agency, O.Ö. Energiesparverband.

The conference "Regional Biomass Action Plans" is the final conference of the "REGBIE+ project", implemented in the framework of the Intelligent Energy for Europe (IEE) programme. The conference focuses on regional and local strategies to promote heating and electricity from biomass, innovative technologies and solutions, instruments and measure and presents examples of successful regions.

Intelligent Energy Europe

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EUSEW 2009 - More events

organised by FEDARENE Members

In Brussels

Solar-air-conditioning systems for small and medium applications in residential and commercial buildings

"...get familiar with the state of the art, potential and barriers of Solar Air Conditioning..."

EVE and Target GmbH - 10/02 (a.m.)

The role of wave energy in the European RES-e market

"...fostering exchange and discussion on wave energy issues..."

EVE - 11/02 (a.m.)

European Energy Service Award 2008 Ceremony

"...honouring outstanding efforts and achievements in energy services for energy efficiency in Europe..."

Berliner Energieagentur GmbH - 11/02 (evening)

Lunch conference: Castilla-La Mancha: Impact and Aims of the Solar Thermal Electricity

"...approaching the current situation and future of solar thermal electricity..."

Castilla-La Mancha - 12/02/2009 (noon)

Energy Efficiency - RES and Technological Innovation

"...Presenting EE good practices from Salerno province for replication in Europe..."

AGEAS Salerno- 12/02/2009 (p.m.)

In Europe

Open days for Sustainable Energy

Cork County Energy Agency & Tipperary Energy Agency - 24/01->07-02, Ireland

Castilla-La Mancha, Renewable Energies: land, wind, sun, ...future

Castilla-La Mancha - 9-13/02, Cuenca, Toledo, Spain

Building energy efficiency and energy saving

ARAEN, Regione Abruzzo - 11/02, Pescara, Italy

Sustainable transport: the applications of hydrogen

ARAEN, Regione Abruzzo - 13/02, Pescara, Italy

More info? www.fedarene.org

("events" section)

FEDARENE

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The Covenant of Mayors is on!

FEDARENE is part of the Secretariat

The Covenant of Mayors is an ambitious initiative of the European Commission that will bring together the mayors of Europe's most pioneering cities in a permanent network to exchange ideas and best practices. The cities signing up for the CoM commit to prepare an "Energy Action Plan" and to reduce their CO2 emissions by more than 20%.

A consortium led by Energie-Cités with 4 other European networks of local and regional authorities (Climate Alliance, Eurocities, CEMR and FEDARENE), as well as a communication agency (Pracsis) was entrusted, in late December 2008, with the task of co-ordinating the Secretariat of the initiative (Covenant of Mayors Office - COMO). The COMO has immediately started its activities, organising the Covenant of Mayors ceremony, which will gather more than 1100 representatives of local and regional authorities, on Thursday 10 February in the hemicycle of the European Parliament, as part of EUSEW 2009.

Building up the Covenant of Mayors...

The COMO will play a central role in the development and visibility of the initiative and be responsible for promotion as well as supporting the signatories and monitoring the submission of "Energy Action Plans". So far, more than 350 European cities have expressed interest in signing the Covenant.



... with the support of the European Regions and Energy Agencies

More than a mere "club" of cities, the CoM should become a strategic alliance of regional and local energy players. The Covenant therefore foresees "supporting structures" to work with the cities, especially the smaller ones, for the achievement of their commitment under the CoM. Within the COMO, FEDARENE will play a crucial role in involving these structures.

Two FEDARENE members are leading the way: EVE, the Energy Agency of the Basque country (SP) and the Province of Milan (which has identified, 60 municipalities within its territory ready to sign the CoM), will formally become supporting structures of the Covenant of the Mayors during special signing ceremonies organised on the sidelines of the EUSEW event. Many others will follow!

More info? www.eumayors.eu

F.E.D.A.R.E.N.E



Prize Gala Energy Trophy+

B²SU & FEDARENE

The Energy Trophy is an EU-wide competition for saving energy in office buildings, focusing on the promotion of energy saving through behavioural changes and low-cost measures. The most successful initiatives in 3 categories will be awarded Energy Trophies.

Thu 12/2 - Evening

Facilitating Building Renovation & Financing schemes

Clearsupport partnership & FEDARENE

The seminar "Facilitating Building Renovation & Financing schemes" will give to decision makers, stakeholders and civil society at local and regional levels a testimony of the experiences developed in new Member States in the field of building retrofitting

Thu 12/2 - Afternoon

Energy and employment

ARENE Ile de France & FEDARENE

The conference will focus on exchanging on best practices & sensitizing private and public actors to the latest trends in the employment in the energy sector

Thu 12/2 - Afternoon

Facilitating biogas projects

Biogas partnership & FEDARENE

The conference, intended at stakeholders but also local and regional representative will facilitate know-how transfer and present existing strategies, actions and tools to facilitate new biogas plants and help creating new business opportunities with biogas.

Thu 12/2 - Afternoon

How to influence energy saving behaviour?

B²SU & FEDARENE

Stakeholders from European and national level will present Energy Saving policies of the European Union, give an overview of the support provided by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme and discuss the scientific views on behavioural changes and its effects for climate protection.

Fri 13/2 - Morning