



Dear members, dear friends,

Before the Christmas holidays start we would like to send you the sixth edition of the AER Energy newsletter. With the end of the year not far from us, we can look back on a very successful year for our activities in the field of Sustainable Energy ; and we will continue this work in 2007.

On December 7th, the AER co-organised the Round table on Energy efficiency that took place in Brussels, which was a real success and provided for a fruitful debate on EU's future energy efficiency strategy. At this occasion, a large number of regions signed the declaration 'European Regions for Energy Efficiency'.

Please note that the AER working group on energy will meet in February 2007 in Brussels and that we welcome you to attend this meeting. More information is available in the newsletter.

We wish you a merry Christmas and all the best for 2007!

Best regards,

The AER Committee on regional and economic development

Contact person: Estelle Delangle, e.delangle@a-e-r.org or +33-(0)3-88-22-74-38

If you wish to publish any relevant information from your Region on energy, do not hesitate to contact us. Take advantage of our large database! We will integrate it in our Newsletter and inform our members accordingly.

AER NEWSLETTER ON ENERGY DECEMBER 2006

AER NEWS ON ENERGY

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- World Sustainable Energy Days 2007 (WELS)
- Third International Environment Conference "Renewable Energy"
- EU Sustainable Energy Week – 'Take a week to change tomorrow!'

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH PROJECTS ON ENERGY

- Launch of TPWind: the European Technology Platform for Wind Energy
- WAVEHUB: renewable energy project
- EPC Issue Paper: Rising to the energy challenge

AER NEWS ON ENERGY

1. Next meeting of the AER working group on energy

On the 7th of February 2007 the AER working group on energy will meet in Brussels. This meeting will be a follow-up of the meeting that took place last October 3rd in Alsace (F), which was a very constructive meeting. The minutes of this meeting are available on the AER intranet under:

<http://www.a-e-r.org/main-issues/environment-sustainable-energy.html>

The invitation and draft programme of the meeting are attached to the message send along with this newsletter. If you would like to attend the working group meeting, please confirm your participation to Agnès Ciccarone, by sending her an e-mail at a.ciccarone@a-e-r.org

2. AER co-organised the Round Table on Energy, 7 December '06 Brussels

On 7 December 2006, the Round table on Energy Efficiency took place in Brussels. In parallel to this event a signature session of the declaration on European regions for energy efficiency was organised, at which 35 regions officially signed the declaration. In total, 65 regions have already signed the declaration. The round table was a success and provided for a fruitful discussion between all relevant stakeholders in the presence of Commissioner Piebalgs. Please note that it is possible to sign the declaration at any moment and that your Regions' declaration and targets will be published on the web site of FEDARENE (European Federation of Regional Energy and Environment Agencies). For more information please contact Agnès Ciccarone, or visit their web site at <http://www.fedarene.org> where the Declaration is available in a large number of languages.

3. Meeting with Commissioner Piebalgs about AER's answer to the Green Paper

In the beginning of 2007, the AER is planning to schedule a meeting with Commissioner Piebalgs to discuss our answer to the Green Paper on Energy in further detail.

In the meantime, the AER 'Regional Policies' committee welcomes any feedback or input on the AER response to the Green Paper that they can bring to the meeting with Commissioner Piebalgs or integrate in a future position paper on the topic.

The AER response to the Green Paper is available in French, German and English on our web site under: <http://www.a-e-r.org/main-issues/environment-sustainable-energy.html>

4. Input form on Regional best practices in the field of RES and energy efficiency: Feedback needed

At the meeting of the working group on Energy, the Input form on regional best practices in the field of RES and energy efficiency was presented. This input form serves as a research tool for the AER to investigate what regional projects all already running –or will start- in the field of Energy.

With regards to the AER database containing regional best practices in the field of Energy that will be created on the AER web site, we would like all AER members to keep us informed of what your Region is doing in the field of Energy. In order to best meet your expectations concerning this database, we welcome any feedback or input from your side. The Input Form is available upon request at the AER secretariat. Please send an e-mail to Estelle Delangle at e.delangle@a-e-r.org in case you would like to receive it and provide us with your feedback.

5. The AER Partnership Pool is on-line!

As already officially announced in the last newsletter, the AER Partnership Pool is on-line at http://www.a-e-r.org/home-en/direct-from-the-regions/partnership-pools/partnership-pool-browser.html?no_cache=1.

We very much encourage all of our members to make use of this database of regional projects that we offer you; it is after all a unique way to promote your Regions' activities and to search for partners for your projects. For any information about the partnership pool or an instruction guide, please send an e-mail to Estelle Delangle at e.delangle@a-e-r.org.



UPDATE ON INTELLIGENT ENERGY EUROPE ACTIVITIES

1. European Commission publishes EU Action Plan on Energy Efficiency

On 19 October 2006, the EC Action Plan on Energy Efficiency was adopted. The Energy Action Plan foresees more than 75 actions to achieve a 20% reduction of Europe 's energy consumption by 2020. The Action Plan is available on-line in English, French and German under:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/action_plan_energy_efficiency/index_en.htm

2. Intelligent Energy- Europe II continues

The EU Member States adopted on 12 October 2006 a decision to establish the European Competitiveness and Innovation Programme 2007-2013. This means that the Intelligent Energy Europe programme will continue. Full details of the programme are not yet available, but we will keep you informed.

EU NEWS ON ENERGY

1. Commissioner's Piebalgs speech at Round Table on Energy Efficiency

Commissioner Piebalgs, responsible for Energy, gave a speech during the Round Table on Energy Efficiency that took place in Brussel on 7 December 2006 that focused on the recently adopted EC Action Plan on Energy.

The complete speech is available under:

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/piebalgs/doc/media/2006_12_07_energy_efficiency.en.pdf

2. Ireland published Green Paper on Energy

The AER participated in an annual conference of the Association of Irish Regions that took place in Sligo (I) on 6 October 2006. It was held in light of Ireland's publication of its Green Paper : towards a sustainable energy future for Ireland that was adopted in the beginning of October 2006.

The conference gathered representatives from all Irish regions to discuss about future policy and projects in the field of sustainable energy. Interesting speeches were held on regional projects, about which you can find more information in this newsletter under Publications/Projects.

The Green Paper is available under:

<http://www.dcmnr.gov.ie/NR/rdonlyres/54C78A1E-4E96-4E28-A77A-3226220DF2FC/26716/EnergyGreenPaper1October2006.pdf>

3. EU regions urged to promote partnerships

The President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso said that EU regions are benefiting from the highest ever levels of EU funds, but they still need to do more to attract private investors on 10 October 2006 at the opening of the European week of regions and cities in Brussels, an event dedicated to discussing growth and investment in EU's 254 regions.

For the follow-up and speeches given during the open days, please go the web site of European week of regions and cities under:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2006/index.cfm?nmenu=1

INTERESTING CONFERENCES / SEMINARS

1. International symposium "Decentralised Energy Systems – Integrating Renewable Energy Technologies in Tomorrow's Energy Supply" – 15-16 February 2006, Oldenburg (DE)

You are cordially invited to the symposium that addresses current state-of-the-art renewable energy technologies and their contributions to a future energy supply system. The symposium aims to bring together scientists and engineers with stakeholders from politics and industry on a European level to promote a successful mutual exchange on the European perspective of decentralised energy systems. The speakers are internationally renown and leading experts in their fields. For more information, please download the information flyer and draft programme of the symposium on the AER web site: <http://www.a-e-r.org/main-issues/environment-sustainable-energy.html> or visit the web site: <http://www.forwind.de/des>



2. World Sustainable Energy Days 2007 (WELS)

The World Sustainable Energy Days 2007 will take place in Upper-Austria from 28 Feb – 2 March. It is the largest annual conference in this field in Europe and it offers a unique combination of events on sustainable energy production and use, covering energy efficiency and renewable energy sources for buildings, industry and transport. For more information on the conference and to register, please visit:

<http://www.esv.or.at/esv/index.php?id=228&L=1>

3. Third International Environment Conference “Renewable Energy”, eco: joints -Interreg IIIA project, 21-22 February 2007, Velden, (A)

This cross-border conference aims to present energy efficient communities from Italy, Slovenia and Austria, which have implemented innovative energy projects. The conference also refers to contracting and funding possibilities for communities in the field of energy. The conference languages are German, Italian and Slovene. For registration please click here: <http://www.ecojoints.net/konf.html> (the programme will also be available online on this link by mid January).

4. EU Sustainable Energy Week – ‘Take a week to change tomorrow!’ 29 January – 2 February 2007

Initiated by the European Commission in the framework of its Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign, this week will feature a series of major EU and international events organised by European institutions and other stakeholders. Participants will be able to join a large number of events covering a variety of European sustainable energy themes. Those can not come to Brussels to take part will have the opportunity to participate in a number of related national, regional or local events in Grenoble (F), Murcia (S) and Dublin (I).

For more information about this event, please visit the web site under: <http://www.eusew.eu>

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH PROJECTS ON ENERGY

1. Launch of TPWind: the European Technology Platform for Wind Energy

The European Technology Platform for Wind Energy was officially launched recently, raising the profile of European research in the field of renewable energy sources (RES). TPWind is designed to be the central forum for both policy debates on wind energy, as well as for what lies in store for wind energy research. The FP6-funded project aims to develop and identify improved components for wind turbines.

For more information about the project, please go to: <http://www.windplatform.eu/>

2. WAVEHUB: renewable energy project

Wave Hub is a groundbreaking renewable energy project in the South West of England that aims to create the UK's first offshore facility for the demonstration and proving of the operation of arrays of wave energy generation devices. For more information about the project, please go to:

www.wavehub.co.uk

3. EPC Issue Paper: Rising to the energy challenge: key elements for an effective EU strategy

In December 2006, the European Policy Centre published its Issue Paper on the sustainable management of natural resources in Europe. The paper clears up many of the misconceptions that often cloud the energy debate, provides a clear-cut examination of the current and likely future situation, and makes a number of policy recommendations.

The Issue Paper is available on the EPC web site under:

<http://www.epc.eu/en/pub.asp?TYP=TEWN&LV=187&see=y&t=&PG=TEWN/EN/detailpub&l=12&A=553>