



As at 1.10..2010

AER European Citizens' Forum

Renewable Energy Generation: what is at stake in Abruzzo?

14.30-16.30, 8 October 2010

Abruzzo (Italy)

Introduction

Assembly of European Regions (AER) is the largest independent network of regions in wider Europe bringing together over 270 regions from 33 countries and 16 interregional organisations. As the political voice of its members and a forum for interregional co-operation, AER has been strongly involved in various issues affecting also the sustainable development of European regions. Following 2009, which has been marked by the run up to the Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen in December, AER's commitment towards sound energy management increased significantly. Therefore in 2010 the first European Regions Energy Day was launched. The event, which sealed a year of close partnership with GE Energy, aimed at providing regional responses to key energy questions. Moreover, in June 2010 Abruzzo hosted MORE4NRG Peer Review, the energy audit aiming at identifying the factors that may affect the sustainable development of the region's energy strategies. The Forum in Abruzzo will be another opportunity to raise awareness about regional practices in the field of renewables, as well as to engage citizens in a debate about their future in ever-greener Europe.

Topic

Energy, as closely linked to the climate change, is equally vital for the environment, economic development and territorial cohesion. That is why it is crucial to help all citizens understand the bigger picture in terms of sound sustainable management, also in reference to the 2020 EU commitments. It is a key to the European security, which can be fully achieved only by generating more support from regional and local actors. In this context, energy strategies implemented by the region of Abruzzo provide an example of 'green' success story. Wind, Solar and Biomass are topics that relate directly to strategies implemented in the region and reflect its green potential.

Experts at the Forum

Linee Guida Ecolico: Multidisciplinary organisation centred on both national and regional services regarding wind power research, training and implementation. Ecolico focuses primarily on recorded energy and wind power; ecoli and bringing more wind power to southern Italy's farmlands.

Regolamento Fotovaltico: Working at both the local and the whole of municipal levels. The objectives focus on the placement of solar panels and photovoltaic panels on the roofs of existing buildings. In addition, the instillation of such solar and photovoltaic panels must be guided by the principles of preservation of urban quality.

ENEL Divisione Ingegneria ed Innovazione: Focuses on Italian, European and international growth strategies. The Engineering and Innovation Division's mission is to manage the Group's engineering processes related to the development and implementation of power generation facilities to ensure the achievement of performance targets, time and budgets allocated.

Ministero dell'Ambiente: The Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, known by the acronym MATTM, is the body of the Italian government special responsibility for the implementation of environmental policy. The current Minister for the Environment and Hon. Stefania Prestigiacomo.

The Forum will be moderated by Nino Germano (RAI TV, Italian Television Network)

Draft Programme

- 14:30-14:50 Opening speech**
- Welcome by Gianni Chiodi, President of the region of Abruzzo
 - Foreword by Hakan Sandgren, President of the AER Committee 1
 - Explanations of the objectives of the Forum by AER representative
- 14:50-15.10 European perspective**
- Barbara Matera, Member of the European Parliament
- 15.10-15.25 Wind Power**
- George Tzovolos, 'Patras Science Park' (West Greece, GR)
 - Renato Ricci 'Linee Guida Ecolico'
- 15.25-15.40 Solar Power**
- Antonio Sorgi 'Regolamento Fotovoltaico'
 - Guglielmo Liberati, ENEL Divisione Ingegneria ed Innovazione
- 15.40-15.50 Biomass**
- Kenneth Backgaard, Chairman of AER working group on climate change and energy, member of the Norrbotten County Council (S) (*tbc*)
 - Carmelo Spitaleri, Ministero dell'Ambiente
- 15.50-16.20 Discussion for all participants**
- 16:20-16.30 Closing speech:** Iris Flacco, Energy Department in the region of Abruzzo

What is the AER European Citizens' Forum ?

The idea behind each AER European Citizens' Forum is to engage citizens, regional politicians and representatives of the European Union in a genuine discussion on a topic crucial for the future of their regions in Europe. The forum operates as a two-way process, informing citizens about the European Union's and regions' concrete work, and listening to people's concerns and expectations about what should be done in the future. The aim of the meetings is not to spread propaganda, but rather to give citizens the opportunity to ask their representatives questions that will help them to gain a better understanding of a discussed topic, raise their awareness on a topical issue.

This direct confrontation during the interactive discussions benefits all:

- *Citizens, who become directly engaged in the European matters and get to understand the regional decision-making process;*
- *Regional politicians, who have the chance to give publicity to their activities in in the local communities and at the European level;*
- *European politicians, who receive direct feedback on their work and gain the inspiration for their future projects concerning their region interactive discussions.*
