



Michèle Sabban's Speech – Bonn, 2 June 2010

After Copenhagen, before Mexico

Mrs Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia,

Mr. Executive Secretary,

Mr. President of Climate Group,

Ministers and vice-presidents,

We have reached a new stage and we are halfway through.

Since Copenhagen, developments have made by the most active Regions and enterprises in the fight against climate change.

Gathered in Paris in March 4 2010, they reaffirmed their engagement in this battle and defined an action framework.

In the same occasion, they announced the main stages of their collective action:

- the strengthening of the North-South cooperation;
- the strengthening of the partnership between the public and private actors and its logic ...
- ...and finally, the consolidation of decentralised cooperation methods and the promotion of appropriate technologies;

Today, we have reached a new cycle of negotiations between the parties to the convention.

Under the guidance of Madame FIGUERES, these parties are gathered with the purpose of finding a new way after the defeat in Copenhagen.

This represents a new opportunity for the world, especially for the insular states, but it also carries out the risk of resulting in another disappointment in Cancun.

And we definitely have reasons to worry about:

- Some European countries use the recession and their inactivity as excuses to justify their rejection towards the implementation of supplementary unilateral actions.
- The development of bilateral diplomacies threatens the so needed multilateralism.

We remember Sir Nicholas Stern' report, describing climate change as "the greatest and widest-ranging market failure ever seen".

We do not want it to become as well the failure of our societies' governance.

For our Regions, this gathering in Bonn is the perfect opportunity to announce the first outcome of our collective action.

The last months have shown the strong engagement of the AER Member Regions.

The AER has tried to meet an important challenge, essential for our action: the political census of European Regions in the fight against climate change.

The good news are that regional authorities are successfully exploiting the local energy potential, and the majority of the AER Member have already developed a plan of action concerning the energy issue.

The Regions are ready to integrate the green technologies and advanced intelligent networks.

77% of our Regions have already developed a local plan in relation to energy.

92% of them consider it as one of their priorities for the upcoming years.

Furthermore, our Regions lead to the end of our dependence on fossil fuels through the use of bio-energy, snow stocking and biomass.

Currently, many regions produce energy from renewable energy sources at much higher levels than the 20% European objective.

In short, federal Regions and States have announced their intention of being responsible for the current major challenge: the transition to society and sustainable economic models.

Today, they prove that in addition to their words and statements they are capable of implementing actions.

For this reason, to the defence of the subsidiary principle we add the protection of "energy subsidiarity".

So this is today's issue.

By establishing a partnership with GE Energy and informing the AER Member Regions of the exact problems they face concerning energy in order to propose efficient solutions together, we have taken this threat into our own hands.

We are, indeed, convinced that the post-crisis capitalism will be sustainable.

Therefore, we need to reconsider the territorial of our activities, propose innovations and long-term solutions, because apart from reinventing an economy that became polluting and unsustainable, we return to the economy the original sense of mankind.

The AER builds through its actions the framework for the development of a third industrial revolution.

And I would even say, to finish, that the presence of Mr. de Boer today is a symbol of this passage, of this transition.

Thank you.

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