



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 13 May 2004

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ENER 134

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: Energy Working Party

On: 4 May 2004

Subject : International Conference for Renewable Energies (Bonn 1 – 4 June 2004)

1. At its meeting of 4 May 2004, the Energy Group had a first informal discussion with respect to the abovementioned conference.

The Presidency informed delegations that the second draft Issues Paper¹ and the Call for actions and commitments were now available on the Conference website. This information was confirmed by the German delegation as organiser of the conference who, with respect to the Call for actions and commitments, explained that the International Action Programme was aiming at voluntary commitments, committing only those states or organisations who would propose the respective specific action.

Moreover, the Presidency announced that draft guidelines for a common EU approach would be made available shortly (doc. 9484/04) to be discussed at a coming meeting. The Group then proceeded to a first informal discussion of the draft political declaration² intended to be adopted by the Conference which is summarised in the following.

2. Most delegations welcomed the draft political declaration whilst making at the same time a number of drafting suggestions on the different paragraphs and requesting some clarifications; some delegations expressed also a scrutiny reservation.

¹ In the meantime, the final Issues Paper has been made available at the Conference website: <http://www.renewables2004.de/en/cd/default.asp>;
the Conference Programme can be downloaded from:
<http://www.renewables2004.de/en/programme/default.asp>

² Draft of 23 April 2004

In general terms, the concept of a common approach was supported and the draft declaration was considered to be balanced. Some delegations felt however that the declaration could be somewhat more ambitious and that indicative targets could be mentioned, while others thought that any reference to targets should be avoided. One delegation made a procedural remark, asking how it could be assured that a finalised EU approach would be reflected in the final version of the declaration.

Detailed comments and drafting suggestions were made with respect to

- para 1: *access to energy for the poor* should be replaced with *sustainable development*; opposition by one delegation; addition of a reference to energy access *for the industrialised world and developing countries*, one delegation preferring *under market conditions* instead of a reference to the industrialised world;
- para 2: the reference to *increased energy efficiency* should be moved to the second part of the last sentence, and a more prudent formulation of that sentence was wished by replacing *will* with *may ... in the long run*;
- para 3: some doubts were expressed on the wording in points a) (*levelling the playing field for renewables*) and b) (*internalising external costs*); one delegation wished the reference to the private sector to be deleted; a number of delegations thought that the "Policy Recommendations for Renewable energies" referred to in the last sentence should be made available, otherwise, it would be difficult to *welcome* them, as is said in that sentence;
DE explained that the wording under points a) and b) had been made as general as possible to cover all the different approaches for the promotion of renewable energies existing in different states and environments;
- para 4: the addition of a new sentence referring to financial support through the flexible mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol was suggested; one delegation wanted to be more prudent and to avoid financial promises;
- para 5: one delegation wished the following words to be added to the first sentence: *in a cost-efficient way in accordance with competitiveness*; several delegations wished some clarifications regarding the wording under point b) (*changing risk perceptions of government decision makers and financiers*);
DE explained that this sentence addressed on the one hand a situation where in particular investment risks were overestimated, and on the other hand the risks linked to climate change, the increasing perception of which could be a stimulating factor for the development of renewable energies;
- para 6: one delegation asked for the deletion of the word *additional* in the first line before *targeted research*;
- para 7: one delegation considered that the word *commit* in the first line was too strong and that the paragraph should be reworded; others wanted to know what was meant with *an appropriate mechanism* in the last sentence;
DE explained that the commitments were only linked to those actions and programmes the countries/organisations had proposed themselves (see above under point 1); referring to the second issue, he said that this sentence was meant to stimulate reflection on an appropriate mechanism;
- para 8: several delegations asked for clarifications regarding the *global public policy network* mentioned in the first sentence;
DE explained that these terms were meant as a possible guidance for future developments, and that the whole text had been drafted in a rather open way, leaving room for different interpretations.

The Commission representative informed delegations that the Commission would decide on 19 May on its Communication "The share of renewable energy in the EU"; this communication was a rather factual one and was not in conflict with the draft declaration; he would welcome a mentioning of the *European Community and its Member States* in the introductory part of the declaration. He further set out that the Commission would propose two actions: a database on renewable energy, and a "patient capital" initiative.

With respect to the procedure for adopting the declaration, DE informed the Group that a new draft would be circulated by the end of next week, integrating as far as possible comments received so far; at the Conference, on 2 June, there would be a discussion with senior officials, and on 3 June with ministers on the declaration; on 4 June, the conference would adopt the declaration by consensus.

The Presidency concluded that the comments made at the Energy Group would as far as possible be taken into account in the redrafting of the text; moreover, he considered that a Community contribution to the Action plan would set a positive signal.
