



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

DRAFT MINUTES

of the meeting held in Berlin, Germany
on 10 December 2012

1. Opening of the meeting, adoption of the draft agenda and of the minutes of the meeting in Rabat on 24 September 2012

After the opening of the meeting by the Chair, the draft agenda for this meeting in Berlin and the draft minutes of the meeting in Rabat on 24 September 2012 were adopted.

The welcome address was held by Mr. Roderich KIESEWETTER, Head of the German delegation to the PA-UfM.

2. Renewable Energies – a success story: Germany’s *Energiewende* in practice

Mr. Urban **RID**, Director-General for Climate Protection, Environment and Energy, Renewable Energies, International Cooperation in the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety gave an overview of different renewable energy sources, the current electricity mix, and explained the roadmap to Germany’s energy goal in 2050, when 100 % of its power supply shall stem from renewables (2011: 20 %, 2012: 25 %). In this context, Mr. Rid pointed to the fact that the number of jobs in this field has quadrupled within ten years and that new ownership structures have emerged. He emphasized that the use of atomic energy was very costly in the long run and that the consistent improvement of energy efficiency was more important than the sophistication of the energy mix. He also underlined that the use of electricity was decreasing despite Germany’s economic growth. With regard to the Mediterranean countries he stressed the importance of cooperation amongst them and emphasized that financing was needed. also from international financial institutions

Delegates from France, the EP and Morocco took the floor in the discussion.

3. Policy challenges for reducing risks from climate extremes associated with climate change in the Mediterranean region

Mr. Reinhard **MECHLER**, Risk, Policy and Vulnerability Programme of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Austria, gave an overview of the current status of global warming and its possible future developments and outlined the most effective strategies for reducing the vulnerability of affected populations and regions.

Delegates from Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco took the floor in the discussion.

4. The Limassol Declaration – the maritime orientation of the Europe 2020 Strategy

Ms. Eleni **PAPANICOLAOU**, Attaché at the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Germany informed the meeting about the Limassol declaration – history and concept, perspectives, aims and implementation. According to her presentation, the Limassol Declaration promotes the maritime dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy: obtaining smart, sustainable and inclusive growth by unlocking the potential of the oceans, seas and coasts. Part of the strategy consists in encouraging the creation of new employment opportunities by increasing marine renewable energy production and exploration.

5. Cooling by sun

Mr. Christian **HOLTER**, General Manager of S.O.L.I.D. Ltd., Austria, gave an overview of the current status of the use of solar energy worldwide and a roadmap on solar heating and cooling from 2010 to 2050. He then presented a number of examples of how non-renewable energy sources are replaced by solar energy in business, in the public and private sectors including tourism, in the health sector and industry.

Mr. Holter also outlined the context of stepping up the use of solar energy: the buildings sector accounts for over 40 % of global electricity consumption, air-conditioning represents the biggest single energy/power consumer in public and commercial sectors and is the key driver of electric peak power demand growth, resulting in a negative impact on grid load factor, electricity price and environment. As solar radiation and peak demand of air-conditioning coincide, the use of solar energy would mean a peak reduction. Hence, the target sectors are infrastructure, tourism, offices, education, companies.

In the following discussion, representatives of Morocco and Lebanon took the floor.

6. Med-Networks

Horizon 2020: an integrating initiative of Mediterranean efforts

Prof. Michael Scoullou, H2020 CB/MEP (Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme Team Leader) emphasized the significance of the Mediterranean and outlined how recent developments in the region hampered environmental sustainability. He pointed to the current environmental and socio-economic urgencies and elaborated on the scale and results of climate change in the region. He then described the architecture of ongoing and future projects of the Horizon 2020 Initiative.

The chairman said that the committee and the Horizon 2020 network would cooperate closely in future, which will include common strategies, e.g. concerning the depollution of the Mediterranean.

After the presentation, representatives of Tunisia and Morocco took the floor.

Eco-villages – the new Mediterranean networks

Rima TARABAY, Vice President of Bahr Loubnan in Lebanon, and Jean Francois LUCIANI, assistant to the Mayor of Girolata, Corsica, France, made their presentations on the evolving Mediterranean network for eco-villages, which promote the concepts of preservation of the environment, self-sustainability in food supply to the extent possible and sustainable development. The speakers underlined that environmental education in schools and for the general public were of crucial importance.

The aim was to establish a network of eco-villages around the Mediterranean Sea in the North and the South, and there was a great deal of interest among mayors of potential network members.

The chairman made the proposal to establish a working group on eco-cities which should be chaired by Mr. Moez Kamoun and Rima Tarabay who would report to the committee. There was no objection to this proposal.

7. Any other business

The **next meetings** of the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water will take place in **Brussels on 11 April 2013** and in **Stockholm on 27-28 May 2013**.

The Chair informed that a joint meeting of the PA-UfM-committees for environment and economy – one day separately, one day jointly – was envisaged for 2013.
