

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1730/02

by Karin Junker (PSE)

to the Commission

Subject: Possibilities for promoting renewable energies in development cooperation

During the 'Forum on Development Strategies', held by the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau and the Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft on 11 April 2002 in Brussels, Antonio Garcia Frago, speaking on behalf of the Commission's Directorate-General for Development, noted that 90 % of Africans had no access to electricity. Although support for the energy sector is not a main objective of development cooperation, it should be given increased priority over the energy projects currently supported by the EU.

Given the depletion of fossil fuel reserves, and in order to combat the climate change, it is becoming increasingly important that the developing countries, too, use renewable energy sources. According to Rolf Seifried, an expert from the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, we may assume that the future increase in global energy consumption will be caused mainly by developing countries. Their share will rise to 45 % by 2020 (compared to 34 % in 1997).

- What action has the Commission taken to promote renewable energies under EU development cooperation?
- What plans does it have in this respect?
- What strategies exist in this connection, with particular regard to the ACP States?