



The World's Largest Renewable - Energy Conference - Bonn'04

By Gunnar Boye Olesen, INFORSE

With over 3000 participants, the International Conference for Renewable Energy ("Renewables2004") in Bonn, Germany, June 1-4, became the largest conference for renewable energy organised so far.

- 154 countries were represented officially at the conference.
- The countries agreed upon a political declaration, recommendations for support for renewable energy, and an international action programme with more than 150 actions.
- The political declaration has several good elements, including a recommendation for increased investments by the World Bank and other multi-lateral development banks in renewable energy.
- The countries also agreed to cooperate within a global policy network for renewable energy and to promote the role of renewable energy in discussions of energy by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in 2006 and 2007.

NO Global Target

No global, and no regional targets were agreed upon at the conference. A target of 20-25% renewable energy for EU by 2020 was proposed from several sides before the conference. Just before the conference, however, the EU Commission issued a communication proposing that the 25 EU countries discuss RE-targets for 2020 over the coming two years. The EU countries followed the proposal from the Commission. Before the conference, the Latin American countries had agreed to a target of 10% renewable energy by 2010. Unfortunately, a change of policy in Brazil meant that this target was not pushed so hard at the conference. On a slightly more positive note, China presented a target of 10% renewables in China by 2010. In addition, the conference concluded that renewable energy could be used to supply power to a billion people who lack it today; but this was a conclusion, not a real target that the countries are committed to reaching.

150+ Actions

The actions listed in the international action programme are proposals for promotion and increase of renewable energy, ranging from small activities, such as the Danish – German environmental impact assessment of off-shore windpower, to China's new renewable-energy target of 10% and the Phillipine programme to double its renewable energy use by 2013. The German government will monitor the progress of all 150+ actions.

Pictures inside and outside of the building of the "Renewable Energy Conference Bonn 2004"

Top: An NGO observer view to the official conference negotiations

Middle: Outside of the building: Evaluation of the countries by Greenpeace. The flags inside of the sun showing those countries which support renewables.

Down: Outside of the building: Several NGOs and renewable industry made exhibitions. Among others solar cooking facilities, wind mills, PV powered kitchen could be seen. Here you can see to call: FOE: "Don't be a Fossil Export Fight Climate Change", and Greenpeace: "We don't want wet feet! Full speed ahead for renewable energy"

Photos in Bonn made by Judit Szoletzky, INFORSE-Europe, Sustainable Energy News if no other sources mentioned



No New World Organisation

A world organisation for sustainable energy was supported by a world Parliamentary Forum organised as part of "Renewables2004", as well as by the World Council for Renewable Energy, which met before "Renewables2004", and the youth energy seminar that was held in parallel to the conference. In spite of this support, the idea of such an organisation was not supported by the countries at the conference. Thus, "Renewables2004" did not become the starting point of such an organisation, as many had hoped it would.

Active NGOs, CURES Reinforced - YES

The NGOs actively participated in several official and parallel activities both before and during the conference. Among the NGOs represented were several national NGOs from all over the world. WWF and Greenpeace made demonstrations and exhibitions outside of the building. Eurosolar and YES (Youth Energy Seminar) held conferences just before the official conference.

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The NGO exhibition was a meeting point: Above: Judit Szoleczky editor of Sustainable Energy News. Photo by IISD, Canada. To the left: (from left) Raymond Myles, Emil Bedi, Timothy Byakola, Werner Kiwitt, Gunnar Boye Olesen all representing INFORSE organisations.



Group photo of many of the representatives of INFORSE organisations met in Bonn.



INFORSE coordinators met in Bonn:

Above: Roque Pedace, Argentina; Emil Bedi, Slovakia; Gunnar Boye Olesen, Denmark; Mika Ohbayashi, Japan, Timothy Byakola, Uganda; Raymond Myles, India.

Down: African Coordinators: Secou Sarr, Senegal; Clair Taylor, South Africa; and Timothy Byakola.



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Citizens United for Renewable Energy and Sustainability (CURES), a network of environmental and many developmental organisations, held daily NGO meetings at the NGO Center, and held press conferences at the Press Center.

The CURES exhibition place gave opportunity for NGOs to place their posters, brochures and publications. The exhibition was a popular NGO meeting point during the conference.

After the official conference, a CURES meeting was held in which the participants agreed to continue the cooperation and to elect new coordinators. Coordinators are now in place from larger networks such as INFORSE and from the world regions.

The secretariat continues to be the German Forum for Environment & Development. Among the new coordinators, several are from INFORSE member organisations in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Read about the conference and its outcome at www.renewables2004.de, www.inforse.org/europe/bonn.htm www.cures-network.org.

INFORSE in Bonn

INFORSE participated in the official conference with observers, participated in CURES meetings, and exhibited together with other members of CURES.

INFORSE-Europe organised an NGO side-event at which the new "Vision 2050" for the EU-15 was launched.

INFORSE organisations, e.g., ENERGIA and ISEP organised thematic side events.

INFORSE-Europe held its Annual Meeting (see page # 8)



CURES press conference in Bonn. From left: Marcelo Furtado, Jürgen Maier, Jenifer Morgan.



INFORSE-Europe side event: Gunnar Boye Olesen presented the new "INFORSE Vision 2050" for EU-15, Andrej Konachenkov presented the Ukrainian, and Ion Zamfir the Romanian versions.

World Bank's Small Step for Renewables

In the beginning of August, the World Bank's directors decided not to follow the recommendations from its "Extractive Industries Review" to stop financing fossil-fuel extraction projects. INFORSE and many others had urged them to follow this recommendation. The directors also decided not to follow all the review's proposals to ensure the involvement and compensation of people affected by fossil-fuel projects. They only agreed that the bank should have greater focus on how projects may impact local communities.

The World Bank has set a target for renewable energy of 200 million \$ for renewables per year +20%/year increase in the next five years. Unfortunately, this is still smaller than the bank's lending to renewables in the mid-90's, and it is only a fraction of approximately 3 billion \$ that the bank group lends in total annually for energy investments.

Read more: www.bankwatch.org, www.seen.org.