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Cohesion policy and energy challenge: boosting results in EU regions

Danuta Hübner, Commissioner for Regional Policy, today explained how Cohesion policy for 2007-2013 will contribute to developing renewable energy and improving energy efficiency in the EU's regions. Nearly €9 billion will be invested in these sectors. The Commission will also act as facilitator by supporting Member States in making timely energy investments, and by promoting the sharing of know-how among regions.

"The regions are essential in reaching ambitious goals in the energy sector through judicious Cohesion policy investment. I am impressed with the imagination that has gone into local initiatives already up and running – they are good examples for others. And I see huge potential for creating sustainable jobs and growth through devising innovative technologies that help reduce our carbon footprint. The sooner regions act, the sooner they can benefit from a low-carbon lifestyle" the Commissioner commented.

The European Commission's proposals on climate action, launched on 23 January, gives a high priority to renewable energy and the need for better energy efficiency.

The 450 operational programmes for Cohesion policy 2007-2013 include investment totalling €9 billion for energy-related projects, € 4.8 billion for renewable energies, and € 4.2 billion for energy efficiency and energy management measures.

There is also €63.8 billion to support Research and Development, and the Commissioner called for a significant part of this to go towards projects to stimulate research on renewable energy.

In parallel to this, the Commission will help Member States to reach their renewable energy targets, and to speed up programme implementation. It also encourages the sharing of experience and best practice, particularly through “Regions for economic change”. Three strands in the initiative concern the energy issues: 1) moving to a low carbon economy; 2) developing sustainable and energy efficient housing and 3) achieving sustainable urban development.

Many regions in Europe are pioneering these developments and technologies but an essential feature of renewable energies and energy efficiency is that most of the development is done in peripheral regions.

Commissioner Hübner presented some case studies as examples other regions may like to follow:

Example 1: **France's unique carbon evaluation tool**

France is committed to a "low carbon economy" and is going to screen investments for 2007-13 operational programmes. The country developed a unique carbon evaluation tool to monitor CO_2 emissions produced by all projects funded with EU support. The carbon evaluation tool will be applied for investments in the framework of the CPER (State-Region contract) and of the Cohesion policy co-funded operational programmes. By assessing the carbon contribution of each project

investment, it will support the decision making process at each level of the partnership as well as it will facilitate the continuous monitoring of the carbon neutrality in the partner region. France believes this approach will help achieve its commitment to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) by 75% by the year 2050.

Example 2: Italy ambitious on energy front

Italy is very dependent on imports of traditional sources of energy. This is why the country has committed itself to develop new solutions, notably through Cohesion policy to the tune of 1.057 billion €. A specific priority on sustainable energy has been included in all Italian programmes. The programme for the Southern regions specifically tackles innovation and sustainable energy. Italy, Poland and the Czech Republic lead the ranking among Member States for investment earmarked to promote renewable energy.

Example 3: Samsø (Denmark) -- pioneer in energy self-efficiency

Since Samsø Island started its ambitious plan to become a renewable energy island in 1997, it has become a showcase. The island has acquired experience with wind turbines and neutral CO2, renewable energy district heating plants, rapeseed oil tractors to solar energy panels. Their offshore wind turbines now produce more energy than is used in the island's transport. The Samsø Energy Academy helps exchange experiences and scientific work with visitors and researchers.

Example 4: **'Energy 4 cohesion project': networking of regions**

This project, supported by the Intelligent Energy-Europe (IEE) Programme, was launched in early 2006. The aim is to promote renewable energies in less developed rural areas with 2007-13 Cohesion policy support. The project consortium includes 12 companies and institutes from 11 different Member States (Germany, Belgium, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Estonia, Slovak Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, Italy, Greece). The objective is to develop "master plans" for pilot projects related to renewable energies in eight target regions and to disseminate results throughout Europe.

Example 5: INTERREG III

REGIOSUSTAIN: 14 partners from five Member States (Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Poland and Slovenia) are co-operating on biomass for energy production by establishing an expert network, promoting structural change in rural areas, providing alternative sources of income and using existing potential in agriculture and forestry

CHANGELAB: co-operation among seven member States (Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom) , illustrates the need to work on the lifestyle and attitude of consumers to achieve effective regional strategies for sustainable consumption and development.

Annex (pdf, in English only)**:** the level of EU funding earmarked for renewable energy in each Member State

For more information on regional policy:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm

ANNEX

BREAK DOWN BY MEMBER STATE OF COHESION CONTRIBUTION TO RENEWABLE ENERGIES AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Balgarija

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	27,760,748	14.45 %
Renewable energy: solar	35,641,422	18.55 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	3,089,660	1.61 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	125,619,935	65.39 %
Sum:	**192,111,765**	**100%**

Belgique-België

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: solar	11,851,495	45.89 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	13,976,147	54.11 %
Sum:	**25,827,642**	**100%**

Ceska Republika

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	68,340,963	5.74 %
Renewable energy: solar	109,099,733	9.17 %
Renewable energy: biomass	285,893,854	24.02 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	104,599,733	8.79 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	622,097,020	52.28 %
Sum:	**1,190,031,303**	**100%**

Deutschland

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	25,658,723	5.37 %
Renewable energy: solar	47,598,792	9.95 %
Renewable energy: biomass	80,660,261	16.87 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	72,192,486	15.10 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	252,119,003	52.72 %
Sum:	**478,229,265**	**100%**

Eesti

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	6,800,199	9.24 %
Renewable energy: biomass	3,400,100	4.62 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	63,374,791	86.14 %
Sum:	**73,575,090**	**100%**

Ellada

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	81,840,000	22.48 %
Renewable energy: solar	35,260,000	9.69 %
Renewable energy: biomass	27,310,000	7.50 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and othe	148,430,000	40.78 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy managemen	71,170,000	19.55 %
Sum:	**364,010,000**	**100%**

España

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	3,436,208	1.09 %
Renewable energy: solar	107,449,030	34.07 %
Renewable energy: biomass	46,881,203	14.86 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	10,026,805	3.18 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	147,617,671	46.80 %
Sum:	**315,410,917**	**100%**

EU cross-border cooperation

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	46,866,074	14.39 %
Renewable energy: solar	45,104,962	13.85 %
Renewable energy: biomass	78,744,416	24.18 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	48,253,742	14.82 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	106,690,650	32.76 %
Sum:	**325,659,844**	**100%**

France

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	37,460,284	6.72 %
Renewable energy: solar	107,077,604	19.21 %
Renewable energy: biomass	162,231,884	29.10 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	58,665,285	10.52 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	192,106,190	34.46 %
Sum:	**557,541,247**	**100%**

Ireland

Description	Community amount	%
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	38,000,000	100.00 %
Sum:	**38,000,000**	**100%**

Italia

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	75,418,154	4.07 %
Renewable energy: solar	340,195,612	18.37 %
Renewable energy: biomass	385,867,225	20.84 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	256,185,950	13.84 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	793,795,597	42.87 %
Sum:	**1,851,462,538**	**100%**

Kypros

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: solar	5,950,000	100.00 %
Sum:	**5,950,000**	**100%**

Latvija

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	10,000,000	7.85 %
Renewable energy: biomass	24,680,000	19.37 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and othe	32,500,000	25.51 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	60,220,000	47.27 %
Sum:	**127,400,000**	**100%**

Lietuva

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: biomass	36,763,789	10.02 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	329,961,346	89.98 %
Sum:	**366,725,135**	**100%**

Luxembourg (Grand-Duche)

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	252,437	11.11 %
Renewable energy: solar	504,873	22.22 %
Renewable energy: biomass	504,873	22.22 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	504,873	22.22 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	504,873	22.22 %
Sum:	**2,271,929**	**100%**

Magyarország

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	25,000,000	6.96 %
Renewable energy: solar	28,690,037	7.99 %
Renewable energy: biomass	113,690,037	31.66 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	35,511,930	9.89 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	156,200,000	43.50 %
Sum:	**359,092,004**	**100%**

Malta

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	8,350,000	24.57 %
Renewable energy: solar	8,350,000	24.57 %
Renewable energy: biomass	1,700,000	5.00 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	15,590,000	45.87 %
Sum:	**33,990,000**	**100%**

Nederland

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	5,048,600	10.22 %
Renewable energy: solar	3,748,600	7.59 %
Renewable energy: biomass	7,029,600	14.23 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	5,388,600	10.91 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	28,177,600	57.05 %
Sum:	**49,393,000**	**100%**

Österreich

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	65	0.22 %
Renewable energy: solar	6,638,629	21.99 %
Renewable energy: biomass	17,208,779	57.00 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	325	1.08 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	5,956,013	19.73 %
Sum:	**30,193,421**	**100%**

Polska

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	227,709,750	19.22 %
Renewable energy: solar	59,316,996	5.01 %
Renewable energy: biomass	339,340,833	28.64 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	149,427,638	12.61 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy managemen	409,233,887	34.53 %
Sum:	**1,185,029,104**	**100%**

Portugal

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	33,503,226	13.33 %
Renewable energy: solar	19,963,753	7.94 %
Renewable energy: biomass	23,697,759	9.43 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	27,485,461	10.94 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	146,638,870	58.35 %
Sum:	**251,289,069**	**100%**

România

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	57,462,783	12.92 %
Renewable energy: solar	19,154,261	4.31 %
Renewable energy: biomass	47,885,653	10.77 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	67,039,914	15.07 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	253,241,727	56.94 %
Sum:	**444,784,338**	**100%**

Slovenija

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: solar	27,086,553	16.94 %
Renewable energy: biomass	21,300,000	13.32 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	5,800,000	3.63 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy managemen	105,700,000	66.11 %
Sum:	**159,886,553**	**100%**

Slovenska Republica

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: solar	24,457,405	14.49 %
Renewable energy: biomass	24,547,405	14.54 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and othe	41,247,406	24.43 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	78,584,184	46.54 %
Sum:	**168,836,400**	**100%**

Suomi/Finland

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	796,879	1.77 %
Renewable energy: solar	787,53	1.75 %
Renewable energy: biomass	13,210,281	29.40 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	5,887,557	13.10 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	24,243,917	53.96 %
Sum:	**44,926,164**	**100%**

Sverige

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	12,351,349	20.08 %
Renewable energy: solar	10,835,795	17.61 %
Renewable energy: biomass	17,706,773	28.78 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	11,449,032	18.61 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	9,173,788	14.91 %
Sum:	**61,516,737**	**100%**

United Kingdom

Description	Community amount	%
Renewable energy: wind	33,438,257	12.02 %
Renewable energy: solar	21,003,048	7.55 %
Renewable energy: biomass	36,586,945	13.15 %
Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other	45,748,663	16.44 %
Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	141,507,204	50.85 %
Sum:	**278,284,117**	**100%**