

Überschrift/Titel:	Renewable energy and energy efficiency in the European neighbourhood policy
Untertitel:	Innovative policies and financing instruments for a sustainable energy policy in the European neighbourhood policy
Redner/in:	Parliamentary State Secretary Klug
Anlass:	European Neighbourhood Conference, 19 April 2007
Ort:	Berlin

Mr Pinho,

Ms Walker-Leigh,

Mr Mohammed El-Ashry,

Mr Stather,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2007 is a crucial year! We have reached a crossroads in climate protection: either we act now and succeed in limiting anthropogenic climate change to below 2°C, or the medium-term impacts - such as greater droughts, a rise in sea levels and more frequent natural disasters - and the resulting costs will be incalculable. In 2007 we must launch the negotiations for the post-2012 climate regime. The crucial issue in this context is energy. We have to start implementation today, i.e. with new impetus for expanding renewable energies, and with increased measures for energy efficiency. Germany has therefore placed climate protection and energy at the centre of our EU and G8 presidencies. We have a duty

to make use of international momentum today and make tangible progress.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This conference is extremely important. I would like to once again thank my ministry, the BMZ, the KfW and ecologic for organising it. The fact that the conference met with such a great response and the high-level participation show that there is a great deal of interest in this issue - the future role of renewable energies and energy efficiency in the EU and in the European neighbourhood policy.

Europe needs its southern and eastern neighbours. In future the EU will form an even more interlinked energy market with its neighbouring countries. A number of these countries are exporters or transit countries for oil and gas to Europe. Together we can not only expand grids and pipelines, we can also create a new "pillar" for energy security in Europe and its neighbouring countries through the targeted expansion of renewable energies, energy saving and increased efficiency.

The discussions here today have shown that there is great consensus here in the EU and in our neighbouring countries. We all share common goals. The participants agree that:

- promoting renewable energies and energy efficiency offers excellent opportunities and will be crucial for our future;

- a prerequisite for the successful expansion of renewable energies and energy efficiency is the creation of suitable framework conditions, such as feed-in laws and investment support;
- energy efficiency measures pay off, sometimes in the very first year.

Today we have been given important recommendations:

The discussions have shown that we need consistent implementation of climate and energy policy both in Europe and in Europe's neighbouring countries.

For the EU this means:

- Resolute compliance with the joint 20% target. We propose that the member states elaborate ambitious national action plans and support the Commission in developing proposals for directives.
- For the expansion of biomass use, it is essential that we elaborate transboundary sustainability criteria and certification systems as quickly as possible.
- We have to concert our efforts to bring about an increase in the energy efficiency target by 20% more swiftly. We call on the Commission to present proposals for standards and labelling as a matter of urgency.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

This conference sends a clear signal for the future structure of the European neighbourhood policy. We have to incorporate sustainable

energy policy into the focal areas of our cooperation. All cooperation tools should be used for this in order to:

1. Achieve the expansion of electricity grids as quickly and comprehensively as possible. Investments in expanding electricity grids should be given the same support as investments in oil and gas pipelines.
  
2. Promoting the increased use of renewable energies, especially in the solar, wind and biomass sectors, should be a top priority.
  
3. Energy saving and energy efficiency should be promoted in all areas:
  - investments in modern, high-efficiency gas and coal power plants, whereby CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage can also be an important option for climate protection;
  - promoting heat-power cogeneration;
  - expanding instruments for energy saving in the buildings sector;
  - saving electricity through the use of high-efficiency drives and avoiding losses as a result of wasteful standby operation.Consumption labelling in accordance with strict criteria enable consumers to make energy-conscience purchasing decisions.

**CDM** projects can also provide additional incentives for investments in the expansion of renewable energies and energy efficiency. We have concluded bilateral MoUs on such projects with several countries in order to strengthen our cooperation. We want to promote increased activities and investments by German companies in the framework of these MoUs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We cannot walk this new path alone. We must walk this path as a united EU and hope to walk it together with our neighbours. We therefore need regional initiatives in addition to bilateral agreements.

We therefore welcome the Baku initiative, the Mediterranean cooperation promoted by Italy in the framework of MEDREP and the Arab renewable energy conferences of the MENAREC process. MENAREC offers the opportunity, beyond the European neighbourhood policy, to intensify the dialogue with the Gulf states. Joint projects between the Arab funds and European partners would be a very interesting prospect in this context. I am very pleased that the Syrian government will be hosting the 4th regional conference from 21 to 23 June 2007, which Minister Gabriel also plans to attend.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We also have to increase our efforts internationally. In May at the negotiations of the Commission on Sustainable Development we will have the chance to promote the expansion of renewable energies and energy efficiency at global level. The CSD is a multilateral framework for developing internationally applicable recommendations for a sustainable energy policy. As the EU we are calling for an action-oriented outcome of the CSD. We therefore propose:

- the adoption of national and regional targets for the expansion of renewable energies, energy efficiency and access to energy by 2010;
- increased international support and provision of additional funding for the expansion of renewable energies, energy efficiency and access to energy;
- as called for in Johannesburg, the establishment of a regular international review arrangement for the expansion of renewable energies, energy efficiency and access to energy.

We have also proposed that UNDESA compiles all existing national targets and commitments outside of the negotiated outcome. Over 80 countries have already set national targets.

As I said at the start, 2007 is a crucial year! We have a duty to make use of the international momentum today and make tangible progress. The September meeting of energy ministers under Portugal's presidency will offer a good opportunity to adopt concrete measures.

Thank you for your attention.