

**COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Fourteenth Session, New York, 01 – 12 May 2006**

Delivered version, 03 May 2006

ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Meeting growing needs for energy services through increased use of renewable energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including advanced and fossil fuel technologies

- The recent year's geopolitical developments and surging energy prices have shown that the short-term risks to security of energy supply are growing while at the same time energy demand is constantly increasing. The world's vulnerability to supply disruptions will increase as international trade expands, and flexibility of oil demand and supply will diminish. Energy expenditure will occupy a still larger share of the economy, especially in countries lacking own energy resources.
- The different energy-related challenges are unevenly distributed among countries. Diversified challenges and circumstances require site-specific and custom-made solutions. There is a profound need for flexible and pragmatic approaches while adhering to common goals and commitments. We therefore recognize that countries and regions experience different challenges and opportunities, which must be taken into consideration in any global assessment of implementation. The EU believes every country, depending on its specific situation regarding energy production and consumption, should make its energy portfolio more sustainable and more efficient.
- The EU believes that a momentum for serious actions by governments has materialised due to the convergence of steep rises in oil prices and an increasing political readiness to acknowledge the challenge at hand and the socio-economic consequences of inaction. Energy efficiency as well as security of supply is now placed higher on the agenda than at any time since the seventies due to its simultaneous impact on carbon emissions and industrial competitiveness.
- We must strive towards lesser dependency on fossil fuels on a global scale. In the European Union we have achieved some success in pursuing a shift towards increased use of renewable energy, which not only contributes positively to decoupling CO₂ emissions from economic growth, but also realising direct economic gains for households and business applying such technologies.
- The European Commission has recently estimated an EU energy saving potential of 20% by 2020, taking into account measures already implemented by EU member states and proposals for a series of additional measures at national or EU-level. In addition, the EU is considering raising the share of renewable energies to the level of 15% by 2015 and to raise the proportion of biofuels, considering a target of 8%.
- The trend towards convergent energy priorities by governments is reflected in numerous initiatives since the WSSD in Johannesburg. Many such initiatives at the national and multilateral level deserve praise and mentioning. Among these are the *UN-Energy* providing a possible framework for assisting governments in national policy making; The *Marrakech process on sustainable Consumption and Production* with its many initiatives related to sustainable energy production and consumption; the *39 WSSD energy partnership* with their array of bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives; the *Bonn renewable 2004 conference* and its resulting declaration and action programme; the *Beijing International Renewable Energy Conferences 2005* commitments towards increasing the global share of renewable; the *Johannesburg Renewable Energy*

Coalition's promotion of renewable energy through cooperative efforts, and finally the *G8 Gleneagles* Plan of Action on Climate change, clean energy and sustainable development.

- The Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition has been instrumental in enhancing the dialogue and common understanding on the potential of and barriers to be overcome in the area of renewable energy. JREC is chaired jointly by the European Commission and Morocco, and has grown from 66 to 91 countries, 57 of which are developing countries. Together we have supported the Bonn 2004 and Beijing 2005 renewable energy conferences, and are now working on concrete proposals for action for CSD15 in the policy and finance area, for example with a patient capital fund for renewable energy projects.
- Support to panellist Suani Teixeira Coelho for highlighting lack of information and importance of dissemination of technologies and support to Brazil in relation to south-south cooperation
