



## COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

### DRAFT MINUTES

of the meeting held in Vienna, Austria  
on 5 December 2011

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#### 1. Opening of the meeting

The **Chair** opened the meeting by welcoming all committee members. The Chair then welcomed Mr Mohamed **BESSAÏH** (Algeria), who replaces Mr Abdallah BENTOUMI as new Vice-Chair of the Committee, while also expressing thanks to Mr BENTOUMI for his excellent co-operation during the past years.

In his welcome address, the Vice-President of the Austrian Federal Council, Mr Reinhard **TODT**, stressed the need for the provision of education and working places for young people, economic growth and sustainable development, which entail diversification and innovation in order to stabilise society and democratic structures. He added that the promotion of renewable energies would lead to more jobs and an increased interregional trade, as well as a peaceful development of the region.

#### 2. Adoption of the draft agenda

The agenda of the meeting was adopted.

#### 3. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting in Salzburg on 1 July 2011

The minutes of the last meeting of the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water, held in Salzburg on 1 July 2011, were adopted.

#### 4. Environmental protection, water and energy supply as a challenge for cities

The first of three keynote speakers on this topic was Mr Hans **SAILER**, President of the Eco-Social Forum in Vienna, and Chairman of the European Environmental Committee of European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public services (CEEP). He started his presentation by saying that by 2030 half of the world's population would be living in cities. Against this background cities will have to develop , in particular, infrastructure,

water and energy supply. In that context incineration of waste could be used to supply heating for homes or to produce energy.

Mr Enric **AULÍ**, Head of the Department for Environment of the Barcelona City Council, gave an overview of energy consumption in European capitals and identified the rehabilitation and control of private housing, district heating and the management of vehicles as main factors for future action. Providing enough water, reutilizing depurated water for public irrigation instead of phreatic water, and collecting rain water were some of the means, Mr Auli mentioned.

Mr Cevat **YAMAN**, Director of the Environmental Protection and Control Department of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, presented the situation in Istanbul, a city of 13,2 m inhabitants. Providing drinking water, discharging and treating wastewater and protecting water resources have been the main duties of an administration which has had to deal with a constant increase of population. Another challenge has been the collection, transportation and disposal of 14500 tons of solid waste produced daily in Istanbul.

In the discussion delegates from Malta, France, Morocco, the European Parliament, Israel, Belgium and Turkey took the floor.

## **5. Presentation of the first draft reports**

- **Potential for biomass in the Mediterranean countries**

After a short discussion it was agreed that Mr Heinz-Joachim **BARCHMANN** (Germany) and Mr Mohamed **BESSAÏH** (Algeria) will prepare the report together with Mr Leo **BRINCAT** (Malta) and a delegate from the European Parliament. Mr Barchmann presented a first document containing a proposed outline of the draft report and focusing on different ways of using bioenergy, advantages and disadvantages of biomass. Mr Brincat stressed the potential of biomass for energy production.

In the discussion the Chair and Belgium added a few comments.

- **Reduction of barriers between North-South and South-South cooperation in the fields of green technology with regard to mobility and to the energy, communications, and transport networks**

Mr Mouddar **KHOUJA**, Secretary General of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce, gave an introduction to the subject. He described the Arab countries as areas of opportunity, e.g. in agriculture and food industries, irrigation, transportation, IT and telecom, education, health services, manufacturing, oil and petro-chemical industries, banking and tourism. In spite of a number of international agreements there still exist barriers of political and economic nature which have to be overcome.

Mrs Martine **MERGEN** (Luxemburg) will prepare a draft report together with a delegate from Morocco (tbc). Mrs Ayala **SENDERS** (European Parliament) asked that the report take into account the findings of the report on Euro-Mediterranean Transport Networks of the Economic Committee of the PA-UfM which was presented at the last annual meeting in Rome in March 2011. The **Chair** emphasized that this report would focus on such subjects as eco-engineering, know-how transfer in renewable energies, South-South cooperation in solar energy, and therefore not lead to duplication of work. The Chair announced that he would contact the Chair of the Economic Committee accordingly.

- **Implementation of a joint "Let's Do It Day" as part of the Union for the Mediterranean for 2012 to clean up the environment, to stimulate the waste industry and to raise environmental awareness as an initiative to create a common identity**

The **Chair** and Mr. Imre **SOOÄÄR** (Estonia) presented a first draft report. It was agreed that Mr. Ibrahim ABU AYYASH (Palestinian Authority) and Mrs. Orit ZUARETZ (Israel) join as additional co-rapporteurs. It is the aim of the report to establish an annual "Let's Do It Day" in the member countries of the PA-UfM as part of the initiative "Let's Do It World". The initiative could start on the levels of municipalities, schools and NGOs and would develop from there. The co-rapporteurs stressed that waste is not only an environmental but also an economic and social problem. In Estonia 50 000 persons collected 10 000 tons of illegal waste in five hours, showing that with little money and a joint effort much public money could be saved.

In the discussion delegates from Turkey, Latvia, Morocco, France and Israel took the floor. A questionnaire will be sent to delegations to collect data to be included in the final report.

## **6. Any other business**

The next meeting of the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water will take place in Rabat before the annual meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, presumably in March 2012. It is envisaged to visit "best practice" projects in the field of solar energy in Morocco on that occasion.

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