

Driving up Regional Cooperation for Renewables in the European Union

Renewable energy sources (RES) will have to play a predominant role in EU's future energy mix. However, the current policy and regulatory framework does not entirely facilitate this transition but rather reflects a business-as-usual approach. The current RE target on EU level in the Climate and Energy 2030 Framework lacks ambition with regards to the low goal setting of "at least 27%" but also due to its "EU-wide" level approach without member state contributions. Given this weak policy framework, there is one mechanism, which may still help to increase the share of renewables to the scale and speed which is needed given today's challenges: The idea of regional cooperation. **Regional cooperation** can effectively bridge the gap between national renewables policies and a Europeanised approach to renewables deployment. Additionally, regional action across borders allows for participation of non-state actors, possibly a higher political legitimacy and fitted solutions for local conditions. A common cross-border identity might be facilitated through these projects and the revenue generated by the decentralized energy plants is more likely to stay in the region.

The **Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF) EU office** and the **World Future Council** are hosting a series of stakeholder workshops and a study tour to further develop, discuss and exchange solutions enhancing and strengthening regional cooperation aiming at a sustainable energy transition. The goal is to provide concrete examples and transferrable policy solutions by discussing crucial questions with and in frontrunner regions. Therefore it will be organised in the framework of HBF's **#Regions4GreenEconomy** series which are organised together with the representatives of different German Länder in Brussels, and the Global 100% RE Campaign.

The kick-off event will take place in the form of a **stakeholder workshop on 25 and 26 of April 2016 in Brussels**. The first day (25 April) will gather regional experts from across Europe to discuss practical for regional renewable energy cooperation. The aim is to bring people from bottom-up initiatives of cross-border subnational cooperation together, so that they can present their projects and facilitate the dialogue amongst them. These experts from the ground will include representatives from local and regional governments as well as project-managers, utilities, regulators and citizens groups. The second day (26 April) provides a platform for policy dialogue with EU institutions to explore how to foster RES deployment in the European Union by strengthening regions and regional cooperation. Representatives from the European Commission, European Parliament, energy regulators and other stakeholders from Brussels are invited to share their views and perspectives. The findings from the first debate – including the strengths and challenges of and for the local cooperation projects – will be presented. Finally, participants are invited to jointly develop ideas on how to build and strengthen a political process for regional cooperation on RE in the EU.

Later, in **early autumn of 2016, a study-tour to a European model region** will follow. During this study tour, actors from different regional cooperation projects will be brought together in order to ensure the continuity of the process. Representatives from the European Parliament and the European Commission will be invited to come along. By looking at an exemplary cooperation site, the merits of regional cooperations will be highlighted. In the **first half of 2017, a second stakeholder workshop in Brussels** will provide an opportunity to further facilitate the exchange among stakeholders and to draw conclusions. A **final report** will outline the findings and policy recommendations.

This series of events builds on some of the policy recommendations that were outlined in the recently published **HBF report "Driving regional cooperation forward in the 2030 renewable energy framework"** (2015). This report presents a variety of options for strengthening regional cooperation. Further, it builds on findings that the WFC has identified in its program on **"100% Renewable Energy in the EU"**, which included a parliamentary hearing, a study tour to El Hierro, Spain as well as a lunch debate with MEPs and Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete.

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AGENDA Monday 25 April, 15 – 19:30



Vertretung des Landes Niedersachsen
bei der Europäischen Union



Location: Representation of Lower Saxony to the EU, Rue Montoyer 61, Brussels

14:30 Registration and Welcome Coffee/Tea

15:00 **WELCOME NOTES**

Michael Freericks, Head of the Representation of Lower Saxony to the EU
Kathrin Glastra, Heinrich Böll Foundation EU Office
Anna Leidreiter, World Future Council
Tour de table, Objectives of the meeting

15:30 **BUILDING ON SUCCESSES: EXAMPLES FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION**

Exchange of experiences by bringing forward frontrunner examples

Speakers:

Lars Kaiser, FURGY CLEAN Innovation (D-DK)
Fredrik Grund, Biogas 2020 (Scandinavia)
Melinda Loonstra-Buzogány & Siegbert van der Velde, SEREH (D-NL)
Paula Peiró, IrRadiare (P)

16:45-17:00 Tea/Coffee Break

17:00 **WHAT IS NEEDED FROM THE EU TO FOSTER (MORE) REGIONAL COOPERATION?**

Exchange of main challenges and how to remedy them with EU support, development of action plan

Introduction: Kathrin Glastra, HBF (presentation study)

Speakers:

Evelyne Huytebroeck, Member of Brussels Parliament
Tjisse Stelpstra, Regional Minister Drenthe Province
Jens Zvirgzdgrauds, ENVE Commission, Committee of the Regions
Alexandra Lafont, Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière

18:30 Networking Reception

AGENDA Tuesday 26 April, 09:30 – 13:30



Baden-Württemberg

VERTRETUNG DES LANDES BEI DER EUROPÄISCHEN UNION

Location: Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the EU, Rue Belliard 60-62, Brussels

- 09:00 Registration and Welcome Coffee/Tea
- 09:30 **WELCOME NOTES**
Christine Wolf, Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the EU
Kathrin Glastra, Heinrich Böll Foundation EU Office
Anna Leidreiter, World Future Council
Tour de table, Objectives of the meeting
- 09:45 **DRIVING REGIONAL COOPERATION FORWARD:
FROM PROJECT TO POLICY AND BACK**
Main question: How to enable regional cooperation in practice?
Speakers:
Alexandra Lafont, MOT, report back 1st day
Susanne Nies, ENTSO-E
Peter Liese, MEP
Jo Leinen, MEP
Antonio Lopez-Nicolas Baza, Deputy Head of Unit “Renewables and CCS Policy”, DG Energy
Moderated discussion with regional representatives and audience
- 11:15 – 11:30 Tea/Coffee Break
- 11:30 **NEXT STEPS: STRENGTHENING THE POLITICAL PROCESS**
Main question: What are the next steps to build a political process for regional cooperation on RE in the EU? Presentation “September study tour”
Speakers:
Brendan Devlin, Advisor, DG Energy
Claude Turmes, MEP
Mathieu Richard, Enercoop
Jude Kirton-Darling, MEP
Richard Tuffs, ERRIN
Moderated discussion with regional representatives and audience
- 12:30 Lunch Networking Reception
- 13:30 End of the Conference