To achieve the targets of the EU Climate and Energy package, careful evaluation of the available processes is needed, in order to reduce CO2 emissions and, at the same time, minimise enterprise costs while still being competitive.

The main areas of focus are energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, where synergy is a fundamental requirement to facilitate the achievement of targets with more flexibility and less costs for the member states. The current proposal for a directive on energy efficiency transforms certain aspects of the EU Climate and Energy package into a limited number of binding measures although its extension to all energy efficiency opportunities may be desirable.

Energy efficiency is not only an essential requirement for reaching environmentally sustainable objectives but it also provides a real growth opportunity for the member states and their industries.

It is therefore necessary to characterise possible technological scenarios from which useful energy policy indications can be derived. In this way, workplaces can be identified that provide more effective incentives for energy efficiency improvements.

Energy efficiency involves various industrial and tertiary sectors and the technological applications provide interesting spin-off for transport and household electrical devices. More promising sectors, in terms of fossil fuel saving, are: public & private lighting, co-generation, road transport, heat pumps, electrical appliances, refurbishment of buildings & plant, electric motors & inverters, condensation boilers. A global stimulation programme, oriented to improve the efficiency of products and services, must be based on long-term financing through various support measures such as:

- Tax credits for industry
- Incentives for substitution
- Tax allowances/deductions
- Borrowing facilities (zero rate loans)
- White certificates & consistent market development

Furthermore, it is necessary to strengthen the local and regional players and their organisations in order to develop a shared, bottom-up approach and give them the place they deserve. Without prejudice to national sovereignties and in respect of the principle of subsidiarity, the local dimensions must be incorporated within the EU legislation in terms of energy. The success of the Covenant of Mayors initiative demonstrates how often local administrators are ahead their leaders. However, it is equally urgent to ensure adequate finance to support the efforts of the local communities.

In any event, speed is of the essence. The trains are passing by and we still have to decide which one to catch.
Jean-Louis Joseph, Mayor of La Bastidonne and President of FEDARENE, saluted the ambition of the European Commission to develop energy efficiency measures in the context of an unprecedented economic crisis in which the difficulties related to energy supply, in terms of geopolitical instability and fluctuations of costs, only serve to aggravate the situation. He also emphasised the importance of respecting the principle of subsidiarity and recognising the central role of local and regional players in the process of preparation and implementation of energy efficiency programmes.

With the aim of reducing the growing gap between the desire to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the implementation of specific measures, the Committee of the Regions validated the proposal of the Joseph Report aiming to establish national constraining objectives in 2014 with the goal of achieving a reduction of 20% in energy consumption by 2020. It also accepted the implementation of an obligation on energy distributors to achieve the equivalent of 1.5% energy reduction on their total sales volume.

On the other hand, after heated negotiations, the Committee rightfully rejected the obligation for the public sector to renovate 3% of the total surface area of its properties on the grounds that this measure could not be implemented locally with the available financial resources without the establishment of a community obligation which could be more costly. While asking for this financial support, Jean-Louis Joseph emphasised the importance, in the current context, of developing energy efficiency measures that will create numerous opportunities for local employment. Mr Joseph recalled that sustainable energy has, on one hand, directly created nearly one million jobs in Europe - half of which are not relocatable – and, on the other hand, has developed sectors that contribute to relaunching a European economy that is currently in crisis.

In view of the failure of the Durban Summit, in a period of financial austerity, governments are today reluctant to invest in energy saving measures even though they are profitable, economic and use less fossil fuel. The climatic instability aggravates the situation and, if we do not act today, FEDARENE believes that we will be confronted with a catastrophic situation tomorrow, the costs of which will be more and more significant. That is why Jean-Louis Joseph expected a much more ambitious directive.

The conference will give an update on implementation of the EU energy efficiency policies. It will present the main results achieved by the EEW project so far, including screenings of National Energy Efficiency Action Plans and a comprehensive stakeholder survey on the progress of energy efficiency policies in the EU Member States in the last years. Besides expert presentations, an interactive voting session will be held.

The IEE-project Energy-Efficiency-Watch 2: Besides screening second NEEAPs of the EU Member states, up to 20 events are planned in the project with the purpose to exchange good practices, raise awareness and encourage discussion among stakeholders, networks, industry, policy-makers and experts. The expected outcome are European and national energy efficiency policies of better quality and an experience exchange with the aim of filling implementation gaps.

To register to this event: www.wsed.at

More information: www.energy-efficiency-watch.org

ABOUT FEDARENE

FEDARENE is the premier European network of players (agencies, departments ministries and/or administrators, etc.) charged with the implementation, co-ordination and support of energy and environment policies at regional and local levels.

FEDARENE organises and develops exchanges of experience and expertise, partnerships and collaboration between its member regions and agencies. It helps European regions and agencies to develop their capabilities for action in the energy sector. It represents and promotes local and regional dimensions to the European institutions and in debates related to energy and the environment at EU level.

FEDARENE is a non-profit association established in 1990 at the initiative of 6 European regions. It now has 65 members in 15 countries in the European Union.
**Upper Austria**

Upper Austria is a highly industrialised region in the northern part of Austria, with a population of 1.4 million inhabitants. The gross energy consumption is about 300 PJ and 34% is covered by renewable energy sources.

The regional government of Upper Austria committed itself to sustainable energy production and use by developing a comprehensive energy policy framework. The «Energy 21» programme and strategy ran from 2000-2010 and included ambitious targets in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.

The implementation of the Energy 21 strategy was very successful and the following energy efficiency results were achieved (2000 – 2010):

- specific energy efficiency was increased by 14% (target: 10%, based on the gross domestic product)
- energy for heating and hot water for all buildings owned by the public administration decreased by 29% (target: 20%)

In particular, the region’s own buildings led by example and the following energy efficiency successes were achieved:

- new buildings are constructed to meet passive or lowest energy standards with retrofitting to at least low energy standard
- energy consumption for heating was reduced from 132 kWh/m²a (1994) to 94 kWh/m²a (2009)

The total floor area of these buildings is 836,357m² heated gross floor area. The share of renewable energy sources for heating public buildings amounts to 60.7% of the total heat demand!

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**CATALONIA**

**ENERGY EFFICIENT PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

**GENERCAT**

an energy action plan in the catalonian region

The increasing energy requirements of public buildings and the lack of an integrated energy consumption management system to foster energy saving in public buildings, has led the Government of Catalonia to define an energy savings and efficiency action plan under the name of GENERCAT. This was approved by Government Resolution on 30th August, 2011. The overall energy consumption of the Generalitat de Catalunya, is about 1000GWh/year, with an associated economic impact of around €100 million per year.

GENERCAT is an action plan that aims to achieve 12% energy savings by 2014, as the result of an ESCO (Energy Saving Company) approach promoting energy performance contracting between private and public bodies. Over the long-term (2020-2026), energy savings are expected to be 4 times higher.

With the introduction of energy performance contracting (EPC), the promotion of investments and financing, have successfully delivered guaranteed energy savings and created employment in sectors such as engineering, consultancy, energy services and maintenance.

The action plan is structured in two different phases the first focussing on energy audit tasks covering the whole public building stock in Catalonia, that should deliver a cost-effectiveness savings potential matrix, to provide a general overview for optimum investment selection.

The second phase concerns the design, implementation, management and monitoring of selected aspects of the investment programme, using an ESCO approach for energy performance contracting.

Following the first phase of the action plan up to August 2011, ICAEN performed 164 energy audits of targetted public buildings, with an overall energy consumption of 236GW/year. Energy savings potential is expected to be 20% to 25% per building, with 56GWh/year of primary energy reduction and 2.1 million tons of CO2 emissions avoided.

The second stage of the project will start by the end of 2011 and, from 2011 to 2014, is expected to generate a cost reduction of €7m as a result of contracting optimisation and €15.3m related to energy savings (€14.3m will be used to pay back ESCO investments while the Generalitat de Catalunya will effectively earn €1m).

To conclude, the Government of Catalonia is leading an action plan to boost the energy efficiency of the public building stock that will generate €115m related to energy savings, with a low financial impact on the public sector as investments will be carried out by private companies using an ESCO approach.

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Car sharing is currently an underdeveloped practice in Spain. In the Region of Valencia there is only one small-scale pilot project in the town of Sagunto. This started operating in January 2011 and consists of a car sharing scheme involving electric cars. It has two bases with 8 charging points and 8 Electric Vehicles from the “think City” brand. This project includes the management of the car sharing system and also the charging and autonomy management of the vehicles. Sagunto has made a serious investment in this project with the objective of resolving the congestion problem and reducing emissions in the municipality.

Car sharing offers benefits at various levels. Firstly, car sharing allows users to access a broad fleet of vehicles, paying individually for each trip. Car sharing also helps to reduce the number of trips and the distances travelled by private cars. Urban public space is increased due to the reduced amount of area occupied by cars while secondary aspects, such as noise and emissions in the city, are also reduced. Finally, car sharing draws attention to the need for more energy efficient vehicles.

AVEN (Regional Energy Agency of Valencia) launched a CIVITAS project focussed on a study of how car sharing could be implemented in the Region of Valencia. In this project, the future possibility of a compatible and interoperable system between all municipalities of the region is considered, using electric and hybrid vehicles, a concept aimed at the reduction of pollution in the cities.

This project started in July 2010 with the planning of the various phases. A study of car sharing experiences carried out in different cities, creation of a car sharing committee covering the major cities in the Region, development and implementation of compatible car sharing models throughout the Valencia Region and development of a communication plan to report the results of the project as widely as possible. The goals were focussed, on one hand, to accumulating adequate knowledge about car-sharing systems and, on the other hand, to establishing contact with local administrations and other stakeholders as they would be future major players in the promotion and support of car sharing schemes.

Finally, work was carried out on the definition of a common structure that would serve as a basis for car sharing schemes to be implemented in the Region of Valencia. The city councils of major towns in the Valencia Region collaborated in the project development and, at the same time, the main experiences of car sharing schemes implemented in other European countries were studied.

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The current proposal for a new Energy Efficiency Directive calls on the public sector to take a leading role in the sphere of energy efficiency.

For the last 15 years, Berlin has proven that it is possible for public tender procedures and private investment to come together - the “Berlin Energy Saving Partnership” constitutes a successful model for energy performance contracting, which helps reduce both CO₂ emissions and energy costs in public buildings in times of tight public budgets.

Developed by the Berlin Energy Agency and Berlin’s Senate Department for Urban Development, the basic principle is simple - a private specialist energy service company (the contractor or energy saving partner), brings their expertise and the necessary financial resources to the project. It is their responsibility to ensure that adequate investments are made in the buildings and so guarantee the energy savings for a contractually agreed term. Its investment is re-financed through the saved energy costs, which are shared between both partners. Consequently, profits are reaped by both public client and contractor – while the environment benefits from reduced energy consumption.

In its role as project manager, the Berlin Energy Agency has successfully launched and assisted with 25 energy saving partnerships, involving 1300 public buildings and more than 500 other properties in Berlin alone. A total of €51.6m has been invested, with annual energy cost savings of €11.6m and a relief to Berlin’s budget of €2.7m per year.

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