

Plenary – Reporting Session 16h45

Energy Efficiency Workgroup

The Energy Efficiency Working Group was chaired by Vladis Bisters of the Latvian Ministry for Environment. The first speaker in the working group was Randall Bowie (DG TREN), who gave an overview of Energy Efficiency.

He emphasized the fact that Energy Efficiency is a key element of the fight against climate change; a win-win situation for both economy and households.

He introduced a list of key areas for policy instruments and measures to further improve energy efficiency and energy intensity.

- Actions to improve technical efficiency
- Actions to increase demand and lower costs for energy efficient products and services
- Actions to increase competition
- Actions to provide correct and predictable energy price signals
- Actions to lower transaction costs
- Actions to increase public awareness of benefits of energy efficiency
- Actions to develop the market for real energy services
- Improved monitoring and reporting of implementation in M.S. (National EE Action Plans)
- Harmonisation of measurements of savings potential, benchmarks & E.E improvements
- Co-ordination of ECCP II and EU EEAP II (mar 2006)

The second presentation was carried out by Andrew Warren – Direction of the Association for the Conservation of Energy - on energy efficiency in building sector.

A study in new member states has shown there is a huge potential in terms of economics; 450Mt could be saved by 2010 through simple measures adapted on energy efficiency in buildings. Currently, 40% of CO₂ emissions come from buildings (but this is thought to be a higher figure).

Many of the technologies required are already available and are appropriate for new and existing buildings. Energy savings could enhance the viability of renewable energy generation technologies. Most of these measures are highly appropriate to an enlarged EU, in response to extreme climates and under-insulated buildings

Finally, John Scowcroft of EURELECTRIC introduced a presentation on Energy EFFICIENCY – Progress and Way Forward.

The Electricity industry has been one of the most active sectors promoting energy efficiency in Europe. Besides existing technologies and supply of technology, emphasis needs to be placed on developing an energy efficiency culture.

Manufacturers need to provide more reassurance about the efficiency of their products and convince consumers that their products need to be bought. As such, it is vital to increase the demand for energy efficiency products.

A number of specific comments were raised during the discussion which followed:

- With regards to an energy efficiency culture, big potentials exist in schools; the notion of individual responsibility can be taught at school. The problem with the current situation is that citizens do not consider energy efficiency when they are not the one fitting the bill. (public buildings lighting, workplace heating, etc...)
- It was felt that the glass industry was penalised by Environmental regulations. Companies are moving their productions out of Europe, whereas glass plays a fundamental role in energy efficiency (lighting, insulation, solar panels, etc...)
- Considerable potentials also exist in transport, particularly urban transport.
- Importance needs to be put on the role of local governments and regions in decision making; it is disappointing to see that regions are not being more involved.
- Some raised the question about the involvement with developing countries and introducing the use of the best technology available