



Conclusions



KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG



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STRATEGIES ON REGIONAL ENERGY SECURITY-ENERGY POLICY IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

On the occasion of promoting the latest issue of the magazine "Political thought" titled "Strategies for Regional Energy Security", the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in cooperation with the Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" Skopje and the NGO FRONT 21/42 organized an international conference with the title "Strategies for Regional Energy Security-Energy Policy in Times of Climate Changes" in Bitola on 12-13 December 2011.

The purpose of this project was to stimulate, mainly, the expert public and provide specific recommendations and conclusions that could be used as a basis for future national and NGO strategies in this area as well as sharing of best practices in the region. The conference was attended by the most relevant stakeholders in this area as well as domestic and international experts: representatives from the relevant government institutions, energy sector institutions, academic field, including representatives from the NGOs in the country, region and beyond.

The Conference included discussion in three working sessions, as follows:

Session 1:

European climate policy-chance for regional sustainable development?

Session 2:

Energy policies in the region in context of EU harmonization

Session 3:

Energy security as a global problem-regional challenges and perspectives

The speakers raised a number of different standpoints during each session that they presented on behalf of their institutions. After each session an open discussion took place and the participants could ask questions and present suggestions on the particular topic. In the following a summary of the main standpoints, conclusions and recommendations of the participants is given:

Conclusions and recommendations from the sessions

Session 1: European climate policy-chance for regional sustainable development?

1. The human factor i.e. the human activities have tremendous impact on the changes in the climate system. The humans, therefore, must play a key role in dealing with the climate changes;
2. It is necessary for all the countries to implement measures for reduction of the greenhouse gas emissions so that the average global warming does not go beyond the critical threshold of 2 °C. In this regard the World Summit on Climate Changes is very important;
3. The fight against climate changes requires a total change in the lifestyle of all the countries: this includes the EU member states, the United States but also the developing countries such as China. In this regard, we often hear about the need for



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- “new industrial revolution”;
4. Strategies and specific activities are need in order to support the green technology;
 5. What happens after Kyoto? It is necessary to adopt and accept the *jus cogens* / compulsory international norm i.e. treaty for dealing with the climate changes;
 6. The care and improvement of the health as well as the healthy lifestyle must be imperative for all, including the local and national government, but also the business entities. There is no social and economic justification for the pollution (the economic and social progress at the cost of polluting the environment is unacceptable justification). Having this mind and in the context of the recent alarming situation with the pollution of the air in Skopje the following was suggested:
 - 24/7 inspection of the industrial premises
 - Remodelling of the urban planning and strict regulation of the requirements for construction, by pushing for *eco-friendly* and energy efficient buildings, including such building infrastructure in the Republic of Macedonia
 - Revision of the current Detailed Urban Plans (DUPs) in the Republic of Macedonia
 - Adoption of the Law on Greenery and establishment of the so-called ‘green cadastre’
 - Reintroduction of the “City Architect” function in the local self-government system in the Republic of Macedonia
 7. It is necessary to practice and improve the Clean Development Mechanism, including bigger investments by the Annex I countries who are parties to the Kyoto Protocol;
 8. It is necessary to revise and improve particular strategies in the Republic of Macedonia as well as to properly implement some of the strategies. The following documents are especially important in this regard:
 - National Strategy on Sustainable Development in which the clean energy sector has been identified as one of the main contributors to the sustainable development of the country
 - Second NEAP (National Environmental Action Plan) – problems were identified in this area as well as potential solutions related to climate changes
 - National CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) Strategy 2008-2012, adopted in 2007
 - National Strategy on Investments in Environment – carbon based financing recognized as potential for attracting foreign investments
 - National Strategy for Adoption of the EU Acquis in the area of Environment
 - National Strategy on Energy Development
 - Base Study on Renewables
 - Draft national strategy for adaptation of the health sector to the climate changes
 - National Platform on Reduction of Risks from Catastrophes;
 9. It is necessary to invest more in energy efficiency and energy saving and this is to be applied especially for the electricity. In this sense it is necessary to implement measures for reduction of the current practice in Macedonia to use electricity for heating, which was highly criticized. The proposal was made to use state subsidies for greater use of heating pumps as one of the most efficient ways of heating in households
 10. The European Union is a global leader in the fight against climate changes. The European Union recently adopted a strategic document which plans decarbonisation of the energy sector by the year 2050. As a future EU member state, Macedonia should strategically plan how it will fit into these goals and policies

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Session 2: Energy policies in the region in context of EU harmonization

1. The energy sector is a public service the objective of which is to provide sustainable energy to all citizens (it does not exist solely for itself and the profit can not be the key objective);
2. Macedonia is making good progress in harmonizing its legislation to the EU Acquis in a number of energy related areas. It is necessary to finalize the adoption the by-laws as soon as possible. The actual implementation is still a significant challenge and more decisive action is required in this regard;
3. The Government Programme on Subsidizing Solar Collectors is a positive initiative and the decision to extend this Programme is to be welcomed. However, it has certain problems that need to be remedied (such as the limited number of 300 people, as mentioned in the advertisement). The total amount allocated for this program is still minor;
4. Diversification in the generation and supply with energy is an issue of strategic importance for the Republic of Macedonia;
5. Recommendation – simplify the administrative procedure for generation of electricity from renewables and open one-stop-shop system for all the documents;
6. Recommendation – apply stable Feed-In tariffs policy for the renewable energy sources;
7. It is necessary to implement appropriate education related to a number of energy aspects of the stakeholders: local self-government, the citizens;
8. It is necessary to properly finance the projects on energy efficiency and utilization of renewables. In this sense, the grants and credits for these types of projects should be fully available and with lower interest rates. Very important are financial mechanisms for the citizens neglected by the current law. It is necessary to open Fund on Energy Efficiency and Renewables;
9. Recommendation – adopt a separate law on renewables and energy efficiency;
10. The need for cooperation and joint activities has been emphasized. This applies to:
 - The relevant institutions and organizations, in the integration of the EU directives into the national legislation
 - Decision makers and other stakeholders in the regional cooperation, including regional strategy for attracting foreign investments;
11. Recommendation – open an institute for education and training of staff in graduate, master and Ph.D. studies in energy efficiency and renewables;
12. National criteria on renewables sustainability are needed, especially of the hydro energy and biomass;
13. It is necessary to modernize the transmission and distribution system in order to achieve improved efficiency and better utilization of the renewables. It is useful to

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stimulate a decentralized and small-scale electricity generation in the region, including off-grid solutions and "NEGAWAT" approach towards energy efficiency;

14. It is crucially important for the region to make maximum use of the possibilities for energy saving, including research and support of new and innovative opportunities for energy saving.

Session 3: Energy security as a global problem-regional challenges and perspectives

1. The energy security on global level can be threatened due to:
 - Exhaustion of the oil and other fossil fuel energy sources
 - Dependence on foreign energy sources, especially in a situation of energy crisis
 - Challenges in the area of geopolitics such as support to regimes, global terrorism and race towards introducing stability in the regions reach with energy resources
 - Demand from poor countries and the extreme increase of the demand in countries such as China and India
 - Debates regarding economic efficiency as opposed to pollution having in mind the globalization
 - Debates on economic efficiency and rapid growth of the population in particular countries and its influence on the energy security
 - Environment-related challenges, including climate changes as such, and
 - The quest for renewables and other alternative energy sources, these are all challenges that influence the energy safety and security.
2. The reliability of resource supply has its influence on the national security;
3. The utilization of locally available renewables reduces the threat from endangering the reliability in supply with energy resources;
4. In the area of electricity supply and utilization of renewables, it is necessary to continuously improve the supply models by strictly evaluating the risk as well as to use appropriately designed plans and strategies for improved supply in accordance with the ISO standards;
5. The need to involve private sector and the NGO think-tank organizations dealing with expert and scientific analyses due to impartiality in the evaluation of parameters and the need to meet the requirement for supply with energy resources;
6. Political, administrative and information barriers, especially the slow implementation of the laws and regulations – all have negative impact on the energy security;
7. The need to identify the real reasons why the public tenders usually fail i.e. simplification of the procedures and specific procedures;
8. The need to carry out public awareness campaigns that will be education-oriented, instead of being purely informative;
9. The need to award more grants that will stimulate more research activities in this area.



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