

“Greek-Albanian Cooperation in the Energy Sector”
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Conclusions of the Working Group on Renewable Energy Sources
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Conclusions and recommendations

Renewable energies contribute to the security of energy supply, the reduction of CO₂ emissions and the competitiveness. In addition, the development of the renewables could be a new sector of the national economy with social, economic and environmental benefits. The development of RES and the energy efficiency must constitute the priority actions in the energy sector.

The EU strategy for energy and the environment with the relevant Directives shows the direction for sustainable development. Therefore, the harmonization of the national policy with the EU strategy and the elaboration of a national action plan will lead to a sustainable RES market. Specific targets for each energy form and for heating/cooling and power generation should be elaborated and in the penetration of biofuels in the transport sector as well.

The elaboration of a simple legal framework and supporting mechanisms, without stop and go problems, for the development of RES using the best practice of the European countries should be elaborated. The feed-in tariff mechanism (FIT) well-designed for RES-e remains the most appropriate choice in most European countries. In some cases other fiscal incentives (e.g. in heat production) could be considered.

Renewable energy must have easy access to the network with reasonable connection cost. Priority in dispatching and mandatory purchase by DNO or TSO of all electricity produced from RES should be regulated.

The energy efficiency in the building sector and penetration of solar energy such as solar collectors for water heating, Greece is a good example, and BIPV or PV-Roof installations in the buildings is a priority area for action.

Some risks for investors during project development and project operation should be considered. These include the currency risk, the political risk, the planning and licensing process, the revenue security and the supply of the actual generation.

Education in various levels is absolutely necessary for quality and productive RES applications.

RTD actions for RES, international cooperation, participation in projects within the EC programs, (e.g. INCO) with the involvement of the Universities, research institutes, power industry companies and others should be considered.

Recommendations concerning bilateral cooperation

The following nine items on energy have been identified for bilateral cooperation:

1. Efforts to accelerate the exploitation of the Viosa/Αώος river hydro potential,

2. Bilateral cooperation of the Universities and other institutions from Albania and Greece in R&D actions within the EC programs in the energy sector and sustainable energy systems,
3. Bilateral cooperation for the formulation of a legal framework on the thermal insulation in the buildings, which is a priority area for action in Albania,
4. Integral actions to transfer experience and know-how in solar water heating systems from Greece to Albania,
5. Transfer of experience in geothermal energy concerning the exploitation of low enthalpy geothermal fields for heating,
6. Collaboration for possible exploitation of a lignite deposit of low calorific value and peat in Korytsa for CHP with clean technologies,
7. Creation of a joint group for investigation the possible exploitation of a high calorific value lignite deposit in Memalie for power generation,
8. The organizing of an exhibition in Albania with participation of Greek companies involved in the energy sector,
9. The organizing of a joint conference in Albania or in Greece every one or two years to promote the cooperation of the two countries in the energy sector.

Bilateral cooperation in RES development and energy efficiency will bring mutual benefits for the people in both countries.