

## ANEV – Press release

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**ANEV - Italy's National Wind Energy Association - is the environmental protection association officially recognised by law no. 349 of 8 July 1986. The association unites operators and producers of electricity generated from renewable wind energy, and represents over 65% of Italy's entire capacity. Annual electricity production is approximately 3 TWh, and the association has over 800 members.**

The Kyoto Protocol, signed in 1997, set a target for the European Community to reduce its CO2 emissions by 8% by 2012. Following the last meeting of the Presidency of the European Council, the stakes have been raised much higher, with the request that greenhouse gas emissions should be cut by 20% compared to 1990 levels, and Europe's quota of renewable energy resources should be increased to 20% by 2020. To achieve this result, Italy's goal is to produce 25% of the electricity consumed from renewable sources by 2010. This objective should be raised to approximately 33% and will become binding in 2020.

In Italy, renewable energy sources currently produce only 16%, and a marked change of pace is necessary in order to reach the objectives. This situation must be remedied by giving Italy clear, detailed national legislation that will finally enable steady, long-lasting development of renewable energy plants, particularly wind energy, being the renewable source which is advanced enough in technological terms to make a significant contribution to energy demands and reduce emissions. During the past year, the capacity of Italian wind farms has increased by 417 MW, reaching a total of 2,123, producing enough electricity to meet the demand of over 4.5 million Italians and preventing the emission of 3.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, 15,000 tonnes of sulphur dioxide, a large quantity of other pollutants and fine particulates, and saving 10 million barrels of oil.

Its high reliability, efficiency and performance have made wind the world's fastest growing energy source, to the extent that it can truly be considered a priority factor in helping to produce clean electricity. With **3.5 TWh generated in 2006** (data: ANEV - TERNA), the clean, inexhaustible energy obtained from wind demonstrates its importance for Italy's electricity network, as it also helps to improve safety and limits reliance on foreign supplies. Judicious (though prudent) calculations show that, considering the EC's 2010 target, and *with a cautious yet steady growth in wind farms up to an installed capacity of 7.100 MW*, this would help to achieve the objective by *preventing the emission of approximately 15 million tonnes of CO2*, generating average savings of up to € 650 million a year, not forgetting the significant benefits for employment and the conspicuous contribution to Italy's energy requirements, with 15 TWh supplied to the grid. Together with other renewable technologies, these results would enable Italy to meet its obligations,

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but to make this possible, there is a pressing need for the Italian government to take immediate action by issuing the enactment measures for the EC legislation, which are still not in place. To date, there have been unjustifiable delays in the issuing of regulations to enforce the current incentive system, as well as measures to simplify authorisation procedures.

Against this background, with a constant leaning towards a more efficient, cleaner system of electricity production, everyone now considers that renewable energy generated from wind is essential if we are to achieve the EC and international targets. The Italian government vouched its support for these targets in its election programme, and it must now prove that it genuinely intends to make them a reality.

## **DELAYS AND SETBACKS FOR WIND ENERGY IN ITALY**

The European directive of 2001 was introduced into Italian law in 2003. However, four years later, there are still no enactment laws. If no action is taken with regard to the missing measures such as increasing the mandatory quota, setting national targets per source and per region, and defining a single, streamlined procedure to replace local ones, the European Community directive of 2001 will not be achieved. Italy will therefore fail, not so much in terms of creating incentives, but in terms of simplifying and stabilising the legislative framework. It will also build up serious delays regarding the issue of authorisations, which are far in excess of the rest of Europe, and which will have repercussions on the system's efficiency. In this regard, ANEV is asking that substitution procedures be formulated with regard to non-performing authorities, to allow compliance with the authorisation deadlines required under existing legislation.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATIONS**

The extremely high mortality rate for wind farm projects in Italy is now clearly a factor which is distorting and increasing costs for operators, and is also creating inefficiencies throughout the system. While in order to develop a project in Italy, there is a need to factor in the high probability that it will never be authorised, this does not happen in the rest of Europe. The investments are made in vain, and are borne by the project initiator with no possibility of recovery; in addition, the total expenditure is also burdened by the wasted costs of administrative hold-ups. What ANEV is asking for is a simplification of the procedures, and fixed rules for the construction of these plants that will generate major cost savings. It is embarrassing for Italy that, Germany, Spain, even India and the United States, install the same capacity each year as that which Italy has installed in a decade - after Italy was one of the first countries to develop this form of clean technology for electricity production.

## **THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S PLANS**

For the first time, the government has set the objective of reaching 25% of electricity generated from renewables by 2011, the end of its term in office. However, a year after it came to power, we might have expected a few more concrete signals which are late in coming. Meanwhile time is running out and the urgency has now become emergency; we need to hurry!

The solution to the highlighted issues is contained in the European Community directive of 2001 and then the legislative decree of 2003, all that is needed is full enactment of the existing laws, which must be done. The competent ministries in Italy are, firstly, the Ministry for Economic Development, then the Environment Ministry and finally the Ministry for Cultural Heritage which deals with landscape issues relating to the location of wind farms.



The viewpoints of the first two ministries seem to be similar, while the Ministry of Cultural Heritage takes a more radical stance. There is no doubt that this ministerial stand-off has not helped implementation of the Kyoto protocol.

## ANEV'S TASK

ANEV's main role is to spread the "culture" of wind production, based on real data. ANEV was founded in 2002, thanks to the most conscientious industry operators who considered it their duty to work towards creating wind farms compliant with the best practices available, partly in order to reduce their visual impact. This is precisely why ANEV has drawn up and signed specific guidelines, agreed with the main environmental associations LEGAMBIENTE and WWF, guaranteeing that the wind farms constructed by ANEV members according to these protocols will minimise all environmental impact, and that the best technologies and procedures currently available will be applied at every stage.

Given the current momentum regarding energy and environmental targets, ANEV is vehemently urging the public decision-makers to provide urgent assurance to renewable energy producers that these important results will soon be achieved, in line with the expectations and commitments faced by the Italian government on the international scene.