

INTRODUCTION to the debate

- **Experts** are telling us that:
 - 60% cuts feasible—and options more abundant (renewables, hydrogen, fuel cells, efficiency...).
 - Costs not prohibitive but uncertainty.
 - Innovation and research holds the key.
 - Innovation policy at regional national and international levels is critical!
 - Scientific studies show agreement on a figure around 20% decrease in world product.
 - Cost might fall over time by 2040.
- Regions have a **crucial role** in:
 - Proper consultation with citizens before adoption of any technologies.
 - Diversity in the options that are developed (not a good idea to put all your eggs in one basket).
 - Allowing ingenuity and diversity in responses at the citizen level
 - Designing options to meet local conditions and local needs.

INTRODUCTION to the debate

- **Regions** can also:
 - Influence National Policy.
 - Be an example for other regions.
 - Be much more effective.

CASE STUDIES

➤ Seven case studies were presented:

- Wales
- ADEME-Brittany
- Reunion
- Euskadi
- Brittany
- Mexico
- Sao Paulo

➤ Common conclusions:

- Critical Role for R&D&i.
- Awareness raising (help to implement policies and to develop new policy tools).
- Regulatory framework (Building code, green procurement and other).
- In terms of sectors, energy production and transport still the main challenges.

CASE STUDIES

- If the North wants to breathe problems of the south should be tackled: Common but differentiated responsibilities.
- Challenges and main obstacles:
 - Intellectual rights for technology transfer. Might not be a problem as bad as in other areas such as medicine but still a big barrier.
 - CDM not enough, too bureaucratic.
 - Basic priorities: water, sanitation and waste. Not the same in the North and in the South.
 - Decentralised systems for energy production and for water treatment must be explored, although there also exists synergies that can be lost if you decentralise too much. Need to find the right balance.
 - Developing regions need support in policy planning also (capacity building) but not only. Economic resources still a major need.

DEBATE

- Are biofuels/agrofuels sustainable? This question does not have a simple answer, it is a debate.
- Any policy devoted to improve energy production towards a low carbon energy system is very welcome, however, the less polluting energy still is the one not consumed. It is vital to insist in the control of the demand: Demand side policies.
- Solidarity among regions might also be a key for success.
- Coordination and exchange of best practices extremely important.
- Nuclear energy can not be considered a renewable energy but may be a transition source towards a low carbon economy. Can the nuclear debate be at regional level? Some regions clear opposition...

OUTCOME

- NRG4SD (www.nrg4sd.net) might be extremely important for exchange of best practices and to develop bilateral agreements.
- Some developed regions are developing small partnership programs together with UNDP to coach one or two regions in developing countries. Small step but an important one.
- The development of marine energy production systems is a priority for some developing regions: R&D&i.
- National governments can not afford to design policies without the partnership and leadership of regions. We know “what we need” and we are “the ones in charge” of implementing climate change policies. Coordination at all levels of Government is crucial.
 - Many thing can be effectively done as long you do not worry about who takes credit for the success!