



12.30-14.00 5 June 2014

Committee Room 2, Scottish Parliament

Chair: Sarah Boyack MSP

The European context: policy, funding, education

Meeting Note

1. Attendees

A provisional list of attendees is attached to the end of this note. If you attended and are not shown on the list, please email Gavin Donoghue at gdonoghue@scottishrenewables.com.

2. Introduction and approval of minutes from the last meeting

Sarah Boyack MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced the speakers, and asked if there were any corrections to the previous meeting's minutes. There were no suggestions.

Bill Rodger then proposed, and Patrick Harvie MSP seconded, that the minutes represented an accurate description of the previous meeting of 20 March.

3. Presentation: *The Policy context* – Dr Sam Gardner, Head of Policy, WWF Scotland

Dr Gardner spoke about the three current EU-level targets, including for Greenhouse Gas emissions (which we are on track to meet), Renewables (also on track to meet) and Energy Efficiency (which we are not on track to meet). However, even with the EU's successes this still put the world on track for an increase in temperature of three degrees centigrade.

He also touched on the EU's Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) which he said had been less successful, due to the recession and too many credits being available, and called into question the EU's whole carbon pricing strategy.

He then went to talk about Germany as an example of where an increase in 'disruptive' renewable energy technologies on the electricity system have driven down the electricity prices to the point whereby sometimes those prices are even negative.

Looking to the future, Dr Gardner then set out the current EU proposals to have a new 40% Greenhouse Gas emissions target, a 27% Renewable Energy target and no Energy Efficiency target. He also stated that the EU ETS also needed major structural reform.

4. Presentation: *Funding opportunities* – Richard Buxbaum, Senior EU Funding Executive, Scotland Europa

Mr Buxbaum outlined the drivers of EU energy policy being competitiveness, sustainability and security of supply.

He then went on to describe the EU's Horizon 2020 programme which would be replacing the seventh version of the Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development (FP7). Horizon 2020 will focus very much on research and innovation and have a budget of approximately €80 billion for renewable energy and energy efficiency

Horizon 2020's calls for low carbon and energy efficiency projects are run through its three main pillars: Excellent science; Industrial leadership; Societal challenges. Within these pillars, Horizon 2020's first work programme was published in December 2013 with calls for projects in the areas of Energy Efficiency, Low-Carbon Technologies and Smart Cities.

Mr Buxbaum also pointed out that Horizon 2020 has a particular focus on small businesses with 20% of the programme's budget allocated for SMEs, but that it is not the only game in town in terms of funding for projects.

5. Presentation: *Education and Training* – Paolo Buoni, Director, European Energy Centre

Mr Buoni highlighted that there were 1.2 million jobs in renewables across the EU and that the wind energy sector alone will need approximately 50,000 extra staff by 2030 on current projections. He mentioned that there was already a skills gap in the European renewable energy sector and that this was only set to increase by 2030

Mr Buoni stated that the main barriers to growth in the European renewable energy sector included unstable government policies and a lack of adequate training, and he also pointed out that there were was an especially pressing need for more training in the wind power and solar PV sectors.

6. Questions

A range of questions were directed at the panel (please note that the intention of this meeting note is not to record a verbatim account of the meeting). Questions posed to the panel included:

- Bill Rodger asked whether a lack of policy direction was the main issue and why there had been a policy drift at EU level
 - Dr Gardner suggested this may be down to a number of factors, including the push for shale gas, an anti-green lobby and the European Parliament elections
- David Crawford asked a questions about the disaggregation of the energy efficiency sector and the effect this had
 - Dr Gardner responded that the push for austerity plus a more market-orientated model meant there had been less support for the sector recently.
- Sarah Boyack MSP asked to what extent energy efficiency was being funded at an EU level
 - Mr Buxbaum responded that it is being funded through a variety of initiatives, including Smart Cities, research and innovation for energy efficient buildings and demonstrations of new technology types

8. Date and Topic of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 30 October between 12.30pm and 2.00pm in Committee Room 2 and will be the AGM as well as featuring a couple of guest speakers as yet TBC.

9. AOB

For suggestions for correction of this note and to request copies of some of the presentations, please contact the secretariat, Gavin Donoghue (gdonoghue@scottishrenewables.com).

9. Attendees

Euan	Leitch
Ariane	Loening
Scott	Restrirk
Stephen	Sheridan
Clare	Adamson MSP
Abhishek	Agarwal
Richard	Atkins
Julia	Brown
Sarah	Boyack MSP
Stefan	Buettner
Paolo	Buoni
Richard	Buxbaum
Neil	Clapperton
George	Coltart
David	Crawford
Michelle	Cullis
Brian	Davison
Karen	Freel
Sam	Gardner
Paul	Gill
Patrick	Harvie MSP
Stefanie	Kaiser
Alan	Kyle
Anthony	Kyriakides
Richard	Leslie
Ian	Lindsay
Cate	Lyon
Mike	Mackenzie MSP
Edward	Maddox
Joanne	McAlpine
Liam	McArthur MSP
Janis	McCulloch
Jamie	McGrigor MSP
Emma	Megaughin

Bristow	Muldoon
Paul	Mullan
Ludo	Ndlova
Veronica	Noone
Paul	Phare
Neil	Phillips
Douglas	Prentice
Daryll	Richardson
Bill	Rodger
David	Somerville
John	Taylor
Grant	Thoms
James	Thomson
David	Torrance MSP
Karen	Warner
Shemaiah	Weekes
Mark	Whittle
Mark	Winkel
David	Wood