

Minutes

Parliamentary Afternoon „The Role of Bioenergy for Energy Security and Climate Protection in the Danube Region – Contributions of Baden-Württemberg and Serbia“, April 23rd, 2015

The cooperation between Serbia and Baden-Württemberg in the area of bioenergy was presented in the Parliamentary Afternoon and the political dialogue has been continued in this area.

The event was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Energy Sector of Baden-Württemberg in Cooperation with State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg, the Working Community of Danube Regions (ARGE Donauländer), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Keynotes/ opening speeches:

- In his opening speech **Minister Untersteller** (*Environment, Climate and Energy Sector*) has presented chances and advantages of the cooperation between Serbia and Baden-Württemberg in the area of bioenergy. Baden-Württemberg was a pioneer in the energy transition: 23% of power consumption of the State and 11% of heat production come from renewable energy.

The goal of Baden-Württemberg being that 80% of energy demand would be supplied from the renewable sources by 2050. The bioenergy was an important part of the renewable energies, since it was storable and flexible, with a high efficiency. Two thirds of renewable energy in Baden-Württemberg was produced from bioenergy.

By using bio-waste for energy production an efficient substance cycle would be created.

In the bio-energy partnership with Serbia and in cooperation with the GIZ synergies would be created to the advantage of all the partners. A regional cooperation in the area of bioenergy would additionally provide competitive advantages. One could jointly work on getting independent from fossil fuels, strengthening the infrastructure and generating jobs at the same time. The energetic use of the biomass would also lead to reduction in emissions.

One would like to share the experiences of Baden-Württemberg with Serbia and involve the partner with the already gained findings. In the area of energy production from biomass “material use” would have to have priority. No competition to food products should be allowed and also the goal conflict with the biodiversity should be considered.

The bioenergy-partnership with Serbia should be further expanded in future and flagship projects should be developed.

- **Ms. Prof. Dr. Snežana Bogosavljević-Bošković** (*Minister for Environment and Agriculture of the Republic of Serbia*) has emphasized the positive impacts of the networking between Serbia and Baden-Württemberg for energy security, climate and the economic efficiency. It was a global and a regional challenge to use clean energies. Serbia would like to use the potential of biomass: Baden-Württemberg had a great role-model function there – despite of great success it would still put its efforts on innova-

tion. The main ambition of Serbia was to reach global and regional trends in the renewable energies. This country had already adopted various strategies for expansion of renewable energies successfully. Biomass was seen as the biggest potential for reaching the foreseen climate and energy goals in a sustainable way. There was a hope of achieving these goals over the cooperation with Baden-Württemberg and developing the country further this way.

Statements from the panel discussion moderated by Conny Czymoch:

Jean-Marc Jossart, *Secretary General, European Biomass Association (AEBIOM)*: Jossart criticized, the industry would get contradictory signals from the politic regarding the bioenergy: The European Energy Union would contradict the 2020-goals. One would have to achieve a match between the demand and the offer on the bioenergy-market and to make the right balance. In the bioenergy sector many things were depending from the politics.

Mathieu Fichter, *Cabinet Member of the Commissioner responsible for Regional Policy, Corina Crețu*: In view of the EC the Energy Union could stimulate the developments and chances on the local level. Renewable energies would provide a way out from the crisis: jobs would be created on the local level, a win-win situation would be achieved. He welcomed the cooperation between Serbia and Baden-Württemberg. Many region possessed great expert knowledge, which could be released only in exchange. With the Energy Union one would like to foster a sub-regional cooperation in the energy sector.

Norbert Lins, *Member of Parliament EVP(PPE)-Parliamentary Group, Member of the Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety of the European Parliament*: In his opinion, the partnership between Baden-Württemberg and Serbia had a role-model character. One had to fill the Danube Strategy with life and provide financings for the projects. Strong technology regions had to be brought together, not only within the EU but also with the EU-candidate countries such as Serbia.

There was no clear support for the bioenergy in the European Parliament. The three-party decision had however been made to support the bioenergy further. Above all the second bioenergy-generation that processed waste products to energy would still be in focus of the European Parliament.

In his opinion the 2020-Goals of the EU were achievable for sure. However he was afraid, that the goals agreed upon 2030 would be less ambitious.

Minister Franz Untersteller, *Minister for Environment, Climate and Energy Sector of Baden-Württemberg*: He explained that more planning security was needed for the investors who want to invest in bioenergy. Bioenergy had variable costs unlike solar and wind energy. Supply contracts for fuels needed a secured frame.

Flagship projects could be developed in Serbia that could also impact regions outside of Serbia and provide incentives for more investments in bioenergy in the Danube region.

He emphasized, that one had underestimated the concept of efficiency with the bioenergy for too long. Bio-fuels should not make a competition to the bioenergy.

Prof. Dr. Miloš Banjac, *Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Energy and Mining of the Republic of Serbia*: Bioenergy was ideal for production of power, heat, fuel and gas. Serbia would need the technical know-

how from Baden-Württemberg, in order to develop further in this area. One would like to emphasize the sustainability of the bioenergy in Serbia and hope to reach a positive economic development this way. Moreover an action plan had been developed, which foresees 27% of bioenergy until 2020. Over the partnership with Baden-Württemberg one had facilitated conditions with the access to funds and could overcome the problem of financing in a better way.

Tanja Gönner, *Spokesman of the Board of Directors of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH*: With a joint project „Development of a sustainable bioenergy market in Serbia“ one was trying to support Serbia with the subjects such as market development and implementation of pilot projects. There was an intensive exchange regarding the technical know-hows. The GIZ sees its task as a „facilitator“ in the sense of providing a platform for exchange and gathering experts. Over the Danube Strategy there were also means for the development of the bioenergy in the neighboring countries. Important preconditions for partnerships such as the partnership between BW and Serbia were the political willingness and the proper framework conditions.

Prof. Miroslav Vesković, *Scientific Coordinator for Macro-Regional Strategies of the Joint Research Unit European Commission*: In the Danube Region one could learn from the bioenergy concept of the Baltic Countries. Cooperation should not remain a specialty, but become a habit. One had to work jointly on efficiency technologies and set up better networks.

→ During the discussion the participants have emphasized the high relevancy of the bioenergy for the energy transition. All the panel participants agreed on the importance of putting an emphasis on the sustainability. Goal conflicts to food products and biodiversity with bioenergy should be avoided in any case.