

**Address of Dr. Hermann Scheer, German MP and
General Chairman of the World Council for Renewable Energy,
to the Global Windpower Conference
2002 in Paris**

I have the honour and the opportunity to speak to you in different responsibilities, but nevertheless with the same commitment and in the same direction – based on long experience in this matter: on the one hand as General Chairman of the World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE), founded in June 2001 as well as President of EUROSOLAR, the European Association for Renewable Energies, on the other hand as one of the architects and the rapporteur of the German Parliament for the Renewable Energy Act, the legal framework for the worldwide most successful policy promotion of Renewable Energies in the electric power sector.

You are certainly familiar with the figure of 9000 MW of wind capacity which we installed within ten years. However, due to the new law, alone in 2001 we had 2600 MW new installations. This tendency seems to continue. At the end of this year there will be installed a total capacity of more than 11000 MW. I am proud of that, but it is by far still not enough. It is only the beginning. If we can continue this growth within the next decade, we will have more than 25.000 MW installed in 2010 – just of on-shore-capacities. With off-shore-capacities we will even go beyond 30.000 MW.

Many people, even within the wind energy scene, think that the space for new on-shore installations would be limited due to local resistances. However, from my experience it may just the other way around: the more windmills are installed, the more people will recognise that a lot of existing prejudices against windmills just do not exist and that many counterarguments are out of proportion or ridiculous, considering the global ecological crisis humankind is facing. An increasing number of people will accept them as an integrated part of the landscape and will question themselves: why not windmills even in my region? Polls underline this statement: an increasing number of windmills leads to increasing public acceptance. Moreover, the more windmills are installed, the further the structural change of the conventional electric power supplying structure will progress – caused by the replacement of large conventional power stations. The result will be a transformation of power line structures. We have for instance more than 200.000 high voltage masts in Germany. High voltage masts are a result of large conventional power stations. The more of these stations are replaced by windmills or other decentralised Renewable Energy Electric Power Production Plants, the more high voltage masts will disappear – and the landscape will be released from it.

I am telling this because we need an offensive mentality and behaviour for the general acceleration of wind power. This includes a creative vision about the structural revolution of the energy sector caused by Renewable Energies. The time will come when there will exist combined electric power productions of windmills and biomass plants or new electric power storing technologies. Then, the problem of discontinuity of wind will be overcome, electric power can be supplied all day long, direct links between producers and customers will be established by power rather than grid management. The time will also come when windmills are used for

decentralised production of hydrogen for transport fuels. We are just at the beginning of a new age of energy technologies of Renewable Energy multi-utilities at the regional and local level. This is a one-in-a-lifetime chance for our environment; for new industries with many new job opportunities; for national economies who can avoid energy imports and destabilisation of their currencies; for overcoming national vulnerability and international conflicts on exhausting fossil energy.

Renewable Energies help to promote international peace and economic stabilisation by creating energy self-determination and independency. This is a classical energy-policy objective, for example in France. It can be really achieved by indigenous Renewable Energies. Many people wonder how the progress in Germany could have happened. The answer is an adequate policy framework, based on the guaranteed access of Renewable Energies to the grids and on legally guaranteed minimum reimbursements. 98% of all Renewable Energy installations were implemented by new and independent players and not by established utilities. These players do not have the problem of vested interests caused by established conventional capacities that are automatically in competition with investments on new Renewable Energy technologies.

However, there are some more preconditions for succeeding. Legal frameworks need applicants. The mobilisation of new players will succeed by stimulating public awareness on Renewable Energies. The more the public opinion know the real opportunities of Renewable Energies and believe in their future, the more Parliaments, Governments and investors will support them. The best way to win the public as an ally is to present ambitious and optimistic perspective and the strong performance of Renewable Energies. We had a lot of conflicts implementing the

Renewable Energy Act. The most important step to succeed was to carry out this conflicts. It were conflicts about the primary right of equal market principles and the primary right for saving the environment. These conflicts were even carried out at the level of the German Supreme Court, the European Court of Justice, against the General Directorate for Competition of the EU-Commission and big power corporations. We sustained all of these conflicts mostly due to the formation of lawyers and law-professors specialised on Renewable Energy and a newly founded legal publication "Journal for New Energy Law". The lesson learned is that the introduction of Renewable Energy will not succeed if a consensus is slowly build up, but by pushing this energy option politically and being prepared to carry out political, public and legal conflicts against many mental and structural barriers.

An old Chinese saying states, if the wind of change blows, some are building walls and others build windmills. This is nothing new. Every new development is confronted with established interests that are defended as long as possible denying the wind of change. The decision to build new roads cannot be left to the representatives of the old ones. The frontrunners must act independently. In the case that the frontrunners will succeed, the old roadsters will follow. That is the way of change. I often heard the argument that this strategy is not as pragmatic as it should be. However, the reality shows that this view is more pragmatic for a successful introduction of Renewable Energies. The motto is: forceful in the matter, kindly in the attitude.

Last but not least: the basic precondition of our success story was the solidarity and collaboration among all Renewable Energy associations and the creation of an alliance in society. In 1997 when the former liberal-conservative majority in the German Parliament intended to abolish our law, we organized a mass manifestation

in front of the Parliament, supported by all Renewable Energy associations, the Environment League, the Farmers Association and the labour union of the metal sector, which were aware of the fact that the windmill industry was about to become the strongest demander for steel in Germany.

It is an imperative to work together. Therefore, the present tensions within the Wind Energy sector must be a matter of the past. I was asked in the last months to mediate among the conflicting parties. The outcome of these talks is – in full agreement with Arthouros Zervos – that after this Global Wind Power Conference and the World Wind Energy Conference in July in Berlin, a common line of worldwide Wind Power Conferences should be started, and that all wind energy protagonists should be associated in one world organisation. Many attendees of the Berlin World Wind Conference in July are taking part here in Paris, and I encourage the attendees of this Paris Global Wind Power Conference to take part in Berlin, too – to represent the human-basis for future unified activities.

In order to promote and develop Renewable Energy Policies the World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE) invites to the First Renewable Energy Policy and Strategy Forum from June 13-15, also in Berlin. We will compare different policies in all areas of Renewable Energies. The aim is to overcome the policy gaps and to empower protagonists worldwide for this. We will introduce and adopt an “Action Plan for the Global Proliferation of Renewable Energies”. Since sustainable development is impossible without the total substitution of inexhaustible and zero-emission-energy sources, we will call for setting the priority on Renewable Energies within the “Agenda 21”. Among other points

- we will underline our request to establish an International Renewable Energy Agency – for global human capacity building
- we will call for global industrial standards
- we will demand to overcome all trade barriers for Renewable Energy Technologies
- we will call for abolishing all subsidies on Non-Renewable Energies worldwide
- we will call for minimum prize systems for zero-interest-rates of Renewable Energy credits – and for total tax exemption of all Renewable Energy transport fuels. It is unfair to compare just the actual investment costs of Non-Renewable Energy Plants and Renewable Energy Plants, because windmills have higher initial costs but no fixed running costs for primary energy. That means: a long-term comparison is needed, which cannot be implemented only by the market.

Renewable Energies as the Agenda No. 1 on the international Agenda with wind power as a frontrunner – this must become the priority.