

# Summary

## CENTRAL EUROPEAN BIOMASS CONFERENCE 2005

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## 1. Bioenergy for Central Europe

The European Union and its Member States have set clear targets for renewable energy in 2010. Appropriate legal steps, which also need to be implemented by the new Member States in the wake of their accession to the EU, have been taken to achieve these targets.

## 2. Aims of the Conference

The overall objective of the Central European Biomass Conference 2005 was to boost biomass as renewable source of energy in Europe with a special focus on the new EU Member States in Central and Eastern Europe.

### **The Central European Biomass Conference 2005 pursued a three-fold objective:**

- to make decision makers from policy, administration, industry and energy sector aware of the state of the art of the utilisation of biomass as energy carrier;
- to point out strategies and necessary political and legal measures to boost bioenergy in the enlarged European Union, especially in Central and Eastern Europe;
- to elaborate concrete proposals for initiatives aimed at increasing the acceptance and the share of bioenergy within the energy system in the enlarged European Union.

## 3. Structure of the Conference

The conference opened with the addresses of Heinz Kopetz, Chairman of the Austrian Biomass Association, Siegfried Nagl, Mayor of the city of Graz and Gerald Schöpfer, Minister for Economy and Europe of the Province of Styria.

In the **first plenary session** the importance of bioenergy within our future energy system was impressively demonstrated by two speakers: Kjell Aleklett, President of the Association for the Study of Peak Oil&Gas, Sweden, and Karl Kellner, European Commission, Directorate-General for Energy and Transport, Brussels. In addition, speakers from USA and Austria outlined the main challenges to bioenergy implementation, its overall economic importance and progress up to now, and prepared the ground for the conference debates.

**Technical sessions** were then held on the following themes:

- Parallel session I: Raw material supplies
- Parallel session II: Heat from biomass
- Parallel session III: Power and heat from biomass
- Parallel session IV: Biofuels

The technical sessions provided an up-to-date overview of the latest technological and economic developments in the fields of raw material supply as well as biomass utilisation for the production of heat, electricity and transportation fuels, involving principally the key factors in successful market development.

In **plenary session II** the situation of bioenergy in the new EU Member States was analysed by experts from Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovak Republic and Croatia.

The **final plenary session** provided a platform for the discussion of market prospects, bioenergy strategies and necessary actions at political and legislative level and suggested specific targets and proposals for awareness-building and bioenergy promotion initiatives in the enlarged European Union.

In the first part of this session the importance of renewables in the future energy mix was analysed by economic and technical experts from Austria and Poland and the Styrian Minister

of Environment and Agriculture, Johann Seitingner, presented successful initiatives to promote bioenergy in the province of Styria.

In the second part of the session Josef Pröll, Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, the Environment and Water Management of Austria and top-class representatives from the ministries for the environment from Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovenia and Slovak Republic presented and discussed their strategies and measures for promoting bioenergy in Europe. As concluding highlight of the conference Hermann Scheer, Chairman of the World Council for Renewable Energies presented its visions and strategies for a full solar energy supply by 2050.

The debate on each plenary and parallel session was led by a moderator who ensured that the discussion (involving panellists and participants) and the outcome were both productive and well-balanced.

During the conference companies, universities and research institutions presented their latest technological developments and results within a **poster presentation**.

Additionally to the conference itself five **technical tours** were organised, where successful Austrian bioenergy projects in the sectors heat, electricity and transportation fuels were presented.

Five **press conferences** and ten press releases guaranteed a high number of conference participants and increased the awareness regarding bioenergy in the broad public not only during the conference, but also before and after the event.

#### **4. Results of the Conference**

Fossil energy has to be replaced by renewable energy. That was the general tenor of the first Central European Biomass Conference, which took place from 26 to 29 January 2005 in Graz, Austria. The interest was enormous. The registration for the conference had to be stopped one week before the beginning of the conference. 920 participants coming from 28 different countries worldwide followed the invitation of the Austrian Biomass Association and the Austrian Energy Agency.

The conference provided valuable impulses in boosting bioenergy within the heat, electricity and transportation fuels market for old as well as new EU Member States. A lot of companies presenting their RES technologies at an accompanying trade fair with about 35,000 participants could deepen their economical contacts during the conference to their international partners. Furthermore the “Declaration of Graz” has been stated, encouraging governments to enact laws, facilitating the necessary change to bioenergy.

The main results and conclusions of the three plenary and four parallel (technical) sessions of the Central European Biomass Conference 2005 as well as the full information on all presentations and outputs of the conference have been provided in the conference proceedings and can be downloaded at [www.oesfo.at](http://www.oesfo.at).

## **GRAZ DECLARATION**

The organizers of the 1st Central European Biomass Conference, the Austrian Biomass Association and the Austrian Energy Agency (E.V.A.) have tabled the following declaration on bio-energy development in Central Europe:

Adequate, secure, environmentally friendly and favourably priced energy supplies, whether in the form of electricity, fuels or heat energy, are a basic precondition for prosperity and economic development.

The gradual conversion of our energy system to significantly greater energy efficiency and the increased use of renewable forms of energy is the pressing task ahead of us if we are also to meet these requirements in the future. This is particularly the case for regions with no fossil energy sources of their own to speak of.

The change-over to renewable sources of energy such as biomass, wind, hydropower, solar heat and photovoltaics provides new development and revenue opportunities for the Central European economy. However, this project can succeed only if political decision-makers create equally effective general conditions.

The economic advantages lie in:

- increasing independence of energy imports,
- the avoidance of high foreign exchange costs for rising energy prices,
- the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions,
- the creation of new businesses,
- the creation of new technologies,
- the creation of new jobs in industry, commerce, agriculture and forestry and
- the establishment of long-term prospects for secure energy supplies based increasingly on domestic sources.

The Austrian Biomass Association and the Austrian Energy Agency, as organizers of the 1st Central European Biomass Conference, are therefore addressing the following appeal to the Governments of the countries represented:

1. The systematic ongoing development of renewable energy should be a touchstone of government policy. Its share of net national consumption for the countries of Central Europe should rise by at least one percent a year.
2. Governments are called upon to implement further ambitious measures, in the process following the successful example set by individual European countries. These measures should encompass in particular tax policy, transport policy, rules on extra power generation on the basis of renewable energy, maximum cooperation in the area of research and development and information and advisory activities.

The organizers of the 1st Central European Biomass Conference are convinced that a clear and consistent policy to promote renewable energy in Central Europe will, in addition to increasing energy efficiency, bring with it a raft of advantages for the economy, the population and the states in the area of employment, security of supplies and climate protection.