

Introduction

Climate Parliament is a cross-party global network of MPs and MEPs working together on renewable energy and climate change.

Climate Parliament is the only global parliamentary network which has renewable energy as its primary focus, and it has already achieved impressive results in stimulating legislative and policy initiatives in Africa, Asia, the Arab region and the Small Island states.

I'd like to take the opportunity to present two very successful initiatives of Climate Parliament:

Climate Parliament and the European Parliament

Since a few years, Climate Parliament is focusing on MFF 2014-2020 and funding for renewable energy and electricity transmission in the EU and the rest of world.

The Climate Parliament has done:

- Meetings with 9 Commissioners (President Barroso, Commissioner Hedegaard, Commissioner Potocnik, Commissioner Almunia, Commissioner Rehn, Commissioner Hahn, Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn, Commissioner Oettinger and Commissioner Piebalgs) and Director Generals (Jos Delbeke, DG Climate Action and Philip Lowe, DG Energy);
- Letters were sent to 27 EU finance and energy ministers, setting out our recommendations for the MFF;
- On behalf of Climate Parliament, Chairman Graham Watson met with Danish Energy & Climate Minister Martin Lidegaard (Copenhagen) and UK Energy & Climate Minister Ed Davey (London);
- Through its cross-party Climate Parliament group, it has introduced the following cross-party amendments:

- 1) Energy infrastructure guidelines - *for climate and renewable energy targets to be taken into account, benefits of interconnected European electricity grid;*
- 2) Horizon 2020 - *making sure that research is focussed on alternatives to fossil fuels;*
- 3) Energy Roadmap 2050 - *sharing of renewables across borders;*
- 4) Connecting Europe Facility;
- 5) Development Cooperation Instrument - *making 'sustainable energy for all' one of priorities, making the development of renewables a priority within the energy spending;*

Parliamentary Action for Renewable Energy (PARE) project

- I would like to thank the European Commission and Government of Denmark for their financial support of the project;

- Climate Parliament and the United Nations Development Programme started a collaboration in 2012 to build the capacity of MPs in developing countries to:
 - strengthen their advocacy for renewables energy,
 - to promote policy and regulatory reform to encourage investment in renewable.

The idea behind this project is:

- Chronic power shortage is a major problem in the South. At the same time, countries in Africa and Asia have rich potential in renewable energies like solar, wind, hydroelectric or biomass energy. If harnessed, these resources could provide the unlimited energy that is needed to lift the poor out of poverty and help reduce gender inequalities, without accelerating climate change;
- The lack of national legal frameworks and policies as well as a lack of financial resources are major obstacles that have to be overcome if we want to promote and enable renewable energy for a significant portion of the world's population;

- As we know, parliaments are key national institutions for the development, promotion and funding of renewable energy projects;
- BUT Members of Parliament must have the right tools to ensure access to clean energy for all the worlds' citizens.

As a response to these challenges, UNDP and the Climate Parliament are building regional networks of MPs and national cross-party parliamentary groups to promote renewable energy, new grids and other steps to ensure access to sustainable energy.

In the framework of this project, they are also providing technical advice to the parliamentarians when requested by individual MPs or the cross-party group, for instance on comparative experiences for increasing renewable energy targets within the Sustainable Energy for All initiative of the UN Secretary General.

10 target countries for the project are:

- Bangladesh, India in Asia;
- Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia in the Arab region;

- Congo (Brazzaville), Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania in Africa.

Mr Chauvel from UNDP will describe some of the key successes of the project so far.

Thank you very much.