Conference “Biomass – the best ways to use it”

15th March 2016, Novi Sad,

Assembly of AP Vojvodina

**Proposal of conclusions**

The energy sector in the world, the European Union, and Serbia as well, is faced with the challenges of sustainable development. It is an undeniable fact that the access to energy at affordable prices is the key precondition to the economic and social development and that energy transformations significantly endanger the environment. In order to minimise the negative impact on the environment during energy production and also its consumption, it is necessary to develop energy systems in a sustainable way that will, above all, allow secure energy supply.

The Assembly of AP Vojvodina actively participates in the activities of the Assembly of European Regions and this conference is one in a series dedicated to energy problems, held in Novi Sad. The presented papers, and especially participants’ proposals and comments, shaped the contents and directions of required activities in the field of energy with the aim to more significantly utilise renewable energy sources and increase energy efficiency.

The conclusions of the conference are sent to the public and especially competent state authorities with the hope that they will help with the formulation and implementation of energy policy.

1. Biomass is a natural resource of great importance to Vojvodina and therefore Serbia. Due to its importance and territorial potential, it is classified as the most important source of renewable energy in Serbia, and according to the simplicity of technology, processing and application, it is one of the cleanest energy. Biomass has a wide range of application (as energy generating product, food, construction material and certainly as the guardian of the climate) and its usage should always be regarded from the aspect of sustainability – including economic, environmental and social dimension. Biomass is the largest single potential of renewable energy source in Vojvodina.
2. In comparison to other European regions, it has been estimated that the application of biomass and other renewable energy sources, is at a very low level in Vojvodina. The main reason is the inadequacy and slowness of institutional organisation and implementation of state instruments in order to achieve their own strategies and policies. Without necessary and sufficient, well-targeted financial assistance, one cannot expect significant increase of participation of biomass and other renewable energy sources in the energy mix of Vojvodina.
3. Local self-governments, in cooperation with the provincial government, are expected to actively assist in informing and motivating its citizens, companies and other entities at local level for the purpose of the greater application of renewable energy sources, the increase of energy efficiency and the development of local commercial activities, by including its own potential in the production of equipment parts that could be marketed throughout the region.
4. We should work on the promotion of local energy production and encouraging citizens by providing financial support for the implementation of their projects and initiatives for the use of renewable energy sources and cogeneration for the delivery to local distribution networks.
5. We should speed up the cooperation with other countries through the Assembly of European Regions with the specific aim at taking over practical experience from implemented projects, analysis of their institutional organisation and the method of motivating and organising local small and medium enterprises for the purpose of participating in the production and servicing of equipment for the use of renewable energy sources in the wider surrounding.

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