

**SETÚBAL DECLARATION ON ENERGY  
BY THE MEDITERRANEAN GREEN NETWORK OF THE EGP**

Despite the oil shocks of the 70s and its severe impacts in economies worldwide, the inefficient use of energy is still a reality, caused not only by the exaggerated consumption, but also by waste. Today, in most Mediterranean countries, to produce the same amount of wealth much more energy is consumed if compared to the early 90's. Although industry in most developed countries is becoming more energy efficient there is still a long way to go, and the inefficient energy demand of services and transport sectors is growing extremely fast.

The production of electricity is still enormously dependent on oil. This reality creates not only many economical problems concerning energy security, but also huge environmental problems, one of which is the emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHG). Nuclear energy, which has been suggested as a miraculous solution to tackle climate change does not contribute in the least to reduce the emissions of the transport sector, which still consumes oil.

The transport sector is in fact responsible for a large amount of the energy used in OECD countries. Nonetheless, the measures adopted so far in EU concern solely marginal improvements in road passenger vehicles technology. These measures are not enough to revert the heavy contribution of the transport sector for climate change. There is an urgent need for more innovative and daring policies aiming to alter the current transport patterns, not only at the level of the technology, but also at the level of the car usage patterns. Specially in Mediterranean countries it is essential to promote the adequate use of transport, drastically increasing the role of public transport in general, and of trains in particular, and effectively implementing rational and integrated urban planning approaches. Such measures not only contribute to reduce the GHG emissions, but also have a most direct effect in the well being of people, improving their health and free time.

The global problem of climate change requires policies in various sectors in order to fulfil the objectives for the first commitment period (2008-2012) of the Kyoto Protocol. It also requires ambitious and concrete objectives to be fulfilled in the next commitment period (post 2012), and according to the scientific community these objectives are not enough to stop climate change. Recent studies state that Mediterranean countries in particular will be seriously injured by the rise of the sea level, losses in agricultural productivity, desertification, and increase in human mortality due to extreme temperatures, not to mention biodiversity losses. In 50 years time the Mediterranean ecosystem will be most probably much different than what we know today.

Bearing in mind that climate change is one the biggest challenges that humankind has to face nowadays and in the next future, the Mediterranean Greens, gathered in Setúbal – Portugal, between the 29<sup>th</sup> of June and the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, declare that:

1. Energy efficiency and energy saving should be the priority of energy policy in the Mediterranean.

2. In view of the serious implications of climate change and global warming, the EU Commission should subsidize all forms of energy efficient renewable and sustainable energy sources.
3. On the other hand, all forms of hidden subsidies to the nuclear industry should be phased out.
4. Building practices in the Mediterranean should be oriented towards bio-climatic architecture. The EU should provide for the training and retraining of architects in this direction.
5. Nuclear power is not the answer to the climate change problem, because it is not a clean energy, it produces unmanageable radioactive waste, and it is a dangerous and risky industry. Moreover, it does not solve the oil dependency of the transport sector. The phasing out of nuclear energy, particularly in the Mediterranean region, should go hand in hand with the advancement of solar and other forms of renewable and sustainable energy sources.
6. Solar energy, together with wind energy, has a huge potential in Mediterranean countries, due to the specific climate characteristics in this region and it should be a priority in public investment.
7. Tax and financial incentives should be provided to encourage citizens to invest in the clean technology that produces zero emissions.
8. Other renewable energies should be increased in order to create an efficient answer to the dependence on oil. However, the increase in renewable has to be accompanied by an increase in end-use energy efficiency.
9. Biofuels produced from used vegetable oil should be generalized in transport. Biofuels produced from energy plants (soya, sunflower, corn etc) should not be seen as a panacea for the transport sector, since its unsustainable production has severe environmental and social impacts in developing countries, especially if biofuels are being produced using GMO crops.
10. Education of consumers and of economical agents is the most fundamental step to achieve energy efficiency.
11. The EU should stick to the original Kyoto targets set for the year 2012, without considering any postponement of these targets. The EU should strongly encourage member states to achieve their assigned quotas and discourage them from resorting to the purchase of emission rights from third countries.
12. Since the transport sector accounts for at least one third of global emissions, the efficiency and frequency of public transport in cities and outside should be enhanced. More resources should be allocated for the improvement of rail and sea transport in the Mediterranean as opposed to the more polluting highway and air transport.
13. The USA has not ratified the Kyoto protocol despite being, together with China, the biggest developed producer of GHG. During the last G8 the USA has confirmed that it is not willing to stick to fixed targets.
14. The EU should therefore continue exercising its important leading role in defining concrete ambitious targets in the near future.
15. The Portuguese Presidency of the EU, starting today on the 1st of July, should implement the declared EU top priority concerning climate change through the adoption of a holistic European plan on energy, trying to get on board the US authorities in the process.

The Mediterranean Green Parties

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