

## **4. Conclusions of the Workshops**



After the previous excellent and detailed presentations, my role appears to be very limited. Anyway, my feeling is that, in spite of being specific, those presentations had a very common background understanding; there are a lot of common thoughts behind.

I have classified these common thoughts in 7 packages in order to try to be as precise and concrete as possible. We could classify these common packages as « conclusions of the conclusions ».

### **1. The initiative of organising these workshops**

For all of them, the initiative was a very good one. The workshops were considered much more than just « meetings to draft conclusions » after 2 hours discussions. Were considered as the starting point of a series of initiatives, new initiatives, we jointly plan to undertake in the future, especially those of thematic character.

In this sense, all the groups consider the agencies to be the key actors in achieving the 3 main objectives : promotion of RES, Energy Efficiency and clean transport. I believe that this message is very encouraging and we should, jointly, congratulate for it.

### **2. The need for training**

All the groups consider that there is a double need for training of agencies :

- In working together with a community added value. This applies, apparently, for the most of existing agencies
- In specific themes. Not all the agencies need to be expert in all themes. Each agency would be trained in those of importance for their mandates.

### **3. The thematic approach**

As mentioned before, it was very much appreciated by all groups. The thematic approach would allow : firstly to « train trainers », it means to pass expertise from some agencies to others; secondly to organise, by all agencies trained in the theme, thematic campaigns addressed to citizens and their most closely related organisations.

Several proposals for thematic workshops have been presented. I just mention some of them :

- changing behaviour of citizens (and closely related market actors) in the building sector
- interaction between legislation and dissemination of « best practices »
- alternative fuels in transport
- about the CIVITAS initiative

All the groups consider the thematic actors as very important instruments to define common approaches for dissemination, for improving the application of existing legislation and facilitating the development of new legislation, especially at local level.

### **4. Thinking globally, acting locally**

The challenge for giving a real community dimension to the agencies activity implies that this principle has to be fully respected. The Commission plays an important role in the « global thinking ». All the groups recognised that and welcomed it. For the « global thinking » the Commission plans to work together with the representatives of the « national associations (or co-ordination bodies) of agencies » as well as with existing operational networks.

The « local action » should be organised through the before mentioned thematic approach but having as starting point the accepted global thoughts.

In this sense, I would like to announce you that the Commission, with the support of the service provider assumes the global co-ordination of the principle.

### **5. The Europe of citizens**

All the groups assumed that the citizens have an essential role to play in promoting Energy efficiency, Renewable energies and clean transport. The agencies consider themselves as key instruments, but they are going to try to empower the role of citizens, very much in line with the main European Union Policy. In this sense, the citizens would move from being « passive energy consumers » to be « active energy savers », or if you prefer « active contributors to sustainability ». The same would apply to those organisations close to citizens.

### **6. Partnership and managing the change of demand patterns**

The groups proposed that a strong local an Europeanpartnership have to be created between the agencies and public and private institutions and/or organisations. In your opinion a very good instrument for that would be the projects supported in community programs (as well technological and non-technological). This partnership would facilitate the integration of objectives, what, also in your opinion, it is not up to now, the case. Market barriers for the penetration of Energy efficiency, RES and clean transport, would be more easily overcome, facilitating the changes in the demand patterns.

### **7. Best practices in technology and legislation**

All the groups considered that the promotion of best practices is an essential activity, as it was mentioned before. The agencies have the main role to play in this promotion, as they are very close to local key actors.

This is specially true in relation to SME's and other organisations such as municipalities, local and regional authorities, architects, planners, public transport companies ... etc.

The integration of the 3 agendas : energy, environment and legislation should be included in these best practices promotion.

The agencies in this sense should play a double role :

- basic role : information, planning, awareness
- further role : installation of performant equipment, and why not operation and share financing.

All the above mentioned in the previous 7 points more especially to candidate countries, in order to facilitate their participation in community initiatives. In this sense, hopefully the successor programme for SAVE and ALTENER would allow the participation of those countries in equal conditions to Member States.