

## **Edgar Thielman, Head of Unit B2**

### **Role of energy management agencies in valorisation and dissemination of technology related results from energy and transport programmes.**

Ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted to address you on this occasion, which provides a good opportunity to consult with European-wide energy management agencies. It gives me the chance to present our thinking and exchange ideas – activities fundamental to any networking.

As you know, the Commission attaches a high importance to the dissemination of research findings. In the Treaty of Amsterdam, Article 164c provides the mandate (and the obligation) for the Community's role, complementing that of the member states in the 'dissemination and optimisation of the results of activities in Community research, technological development and demonstration'.<sup>1</sup>

Organisationally we have drawn some conclusions as well. In the recent reorganisation of DG TREN, in order to streamline activities and to bring dissemination closer to the policy area, this task was assigned to the Unit responsible for the Policy of transeuropean Networks and the coordination of research activities in energy and transport hence for the co-ordination of a key number of tools that are fundamental to the practical implementation of EU policies. In particular, this unit will lead the co-ordination of the research efforts for energy and transport under the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme – the sustainable development approach : that will share an important part of the resources available – over 17 billion Euros – under the FP6. The serious need to commit resources to address the important questions of energy and transport is patently clear...

As the forthcoming White Paper on transport policy states, in 1998, energy consumption in transport accounted for 28% of CO2 emissions. On current traffic growth trends it is projected

---

<sup>1</sup> Title XVIII, *Treaty of Amsterdam*, p.114

that CO2 emissions may increase by 50% to reach 1,113 billion tonnes in 2010. It is salient, to note here also, the ambitious goal of the White Paper to halve the number of road deaths in the next ten years.<sup>2</sup> The central issue is how can we promote these objectives on a regional and local level in a variety of cultures? The key is harmonisation of action in these sectors enabling the exploitation of synergies, while continuing to enhance specialisation and expertise in the specific field. That is to say : find a good network combining technical excellence, with large audiences and marketing skills, let it address the various fields of action on both the energy and transport areas - support it to look for synergies and exploit them ! and last but not the least - do convince them on feeding back to the Commission all the experience gathered whilst evaluating market reactions and requirements !

As our Director-General, Mr. Lamoureux, outlined in his opening address, our purpose here today is exactly to focus on how energy agencies, in particular local and regional management agencies, can work together with the Commission. The objectives of energy efficiency and the use of renewables will serve to benefit both the environment and economic sustainability. In this, a vital element is the dissemination of our findings to the wider public.

At this point I would like to highlight the role that the OPET network has played in the past not only in fostering the ‘uptake of new and innovative energy technologies in the market’ but also in bringing EU energy policies closer to the European citizen by developing concrete actions and making them usable in daily life. The challenge of the future lies in further developing such a unified network that supports the policy priorities of DG Energy and Transport. The urgent need to adopt an integrated approach in our joint efforts is evident from the facts outlined in the White Paper. In benchmarking terms, the advantages of a good network are illustrated by the trackrecord of OPET.

... (\*) quotation of selected data from table in annex...

You have a central part to play in this process by providing a direct connection to citizens. Networks are invaluable in supporting our efforts in dissemination and valorisation activities. Energy agencies should play an important role in dissemination, in particular for benchmarking

---

<sup>2</sup> Commission of the European Communities, *White Paper : European transport policy for 2010* pp.10, 66. COM (2001) 370

and in the promotion of best practice in the energy field – both on renewables, energy efficiency and on the new roles highlighted by the Green Paper such as a key contribution of the agencies on demand side management.

What is then needed in order to achieve the qualitative step of a network of excellence ? The fundamental elements are critical mass, guidance and long-time experience. The OPET network with its technical know-how can provide both a supportive and a structuring element. As I previously stressed, the OPETs main aim is to "foster the uptake of new and innovative energy technologies in the market" while, for instance, SAVE agencies promote energy management. The networks are therefore complementary in their scope of activity and objectives. Since their establishment, many agencies have been successful in implementing co-operation schemes with OPET especially in dissemination activities. It is of the utmost importance that SAVE/ALTENER agencies establish closer links with the OPETs operating in their geographical area via, for instance, the organisation of co-operation meetings at local-regional level.

It is clear that the dissemination process needs to be linked to the policy of the European Union. It is also dependent on agencies' proactive role in the dissemination exercise. It is evident that the variety of activities under various concepts as they stand cannot be handled by the Commission ! unless it is streamlined and resources are used efficiently- both satisfying and making the optimal use of all the parties involved.

Consequently, we need to find an intelligent way forward to organise the entire dissemination process, i.e. : the concept, the network and the implementation tools.

For our part we will take this principal on board when ensuring a future for the OPET Network – *one of the guiding principles that will shape the re-fuelling and re-ingenering of the OPET Network will be the cooperation with the SAVE and ALTENER agencies in order to establish a coherent community for energy and transport in europe !*

There is also an urgent need to address the situation in the accession countries and here we can use our local OPETs to support this work. In the framework of energy and transport, there is a requirement for information, best practice and support. The agencies in these countries face a considerable challenge with the need to adopt the Community *acquis*.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I can reassure you that both the Commission and the OPET network are ready to help the development of network activities in support of the Energy Framework Programme to achieve a plural, yet unified vision.

In doing so we must not lose sight of the broader picture ; this is the key role of coordination - **bringing the energy and transport policies closer to the heart and lives of the European citizen !.**

As well as to keep a constant focus on firstly, the export potential from the promotion of European energy technologies in the global market place and secondly, the role that clean and efficient energy technologies have in combating global warming.

Our united action in the fields of energy and transport by bringing together a very large technical and scientific community for both energy and transport is a challenge but it will enable us to achieve the European research area and the centres of excellence **to reach the sustainable development required to meet the Kyoto objectives by 2010 !**

B2 - E. Thielmann speech 06/11/2001 - Conference SAVE/ALTENER

(\*) annex

As an example, the following table summarises the results of the former OPET Network until December '99.

INDICATOR	UNIT	VALUE
Input		
Non-OPET partner organisations	Number	175
Collaborations with other OPETs/FEMOPETs	Number	99
Output		
Requests for other information/advice/assistance	Number	11125
Requests for publications received by OPET	Number	4958
Requests for technology matches received	Number	182
Events organised by OPET	Number	346
Events participated in	Number	402
Documents prepared by OPET	Number	535
Copies of documents disseminated	Number	630539
Articles/Press releases prepared	Number	441
Total records held on contacts database	Number	92709
Meetings attended by OPET staff	Number	1429
Organisations reached by OPET	Number	63159
Collaborative agreements signed	Number	36
Studies/strategies/plans prepared	Number	267
Energy audits/feasibility studies carried out	Number	211
Performance		
Local technology matches identified	Number	1206
Transnational technology matches identified	Number	209
3rd party EC proposals advised on	Number	1299
EC proposals submitted by 3rd parties	Number	705
Project/investment opportunities identified	Number	10355
Potential investment in identified projects	MEuro	455.5
Potential cost savings from identified projects	MEuro/yr	100.0
Potential energy contribution from RES projects	MW	416.6
Potential energy savings from RUE projects	MW	292.0
CO2 emissions reduced	t/yr	61561

« the OPET Network » – background paper prepared by DG TREN A5 in February 2000