



6th European Innovation Summit

A Mandate for Innovation in Europe

17 - 20 November 2014
European Parliament, Brussels

#6EIS

 knowledge4innovation

Abstract

Knowledge 4 Innovation Lunch Debate

November 19th 2014, Brussels



Join the Energy Revolution

Marcel van der Werf
"We need more intensive collaboration to create energy innovation."

Frank Pierie
"The time for energy transition has passed, we need an energy revolution."

Austin Dsouza
"Why is Europe not the entrepreneurial hotspot?"

András Perl
"We all need to act now for a sustainable tomorrow."

Sybren Jansma
"Challenge young talent to create a sustainable future."

Juliana Montoya Cardona
"Do not take quality of life for granted, all our resources are limited."

Introduction

During the K4I lunch debate Hanze UAS PhD level researchers of different nationalities presented their ideas about their EU in 2050 in terms of intrinsic qualities. They discussed how the EU should look in 2050, taking their PhD content into account and will share their views on actions that we should undertake today as a priority. They will also examine to what extent these priorities are in balance with today's practice. This Younger's Revolution is the core of this lunch debate.

About the speaker

Frank Pierie MSc. B Eng. Currently, Frank is a PhD candidate at the Hanze University of Groningen. His subject is focused on determining the sustainability of renewable energy sources and systems, and renewable system integration. He graduated from the Hanze University with a B Eng. and holds a MSc. in energy and environmental sciences from the University of Groningen. He previously worked at Philips as a process engineer focused on sustainability. Furthermore, Frank is active in lecturing and several initiatives to increase awareness on the subject of renewability and sustainability in his immediate surroundings.



Round table discussion

Global reach Local touch - By Frank Pierie

My name is Frank Pierie and I am a PhD. student at the Hanze University of Applied Sciences. My area of research is focused on measuring efficiency and sustainability. Currently I use this for comparing and optimizing the efficiency sustainability of farm scale anaerobic biogas plants.

The subject discussed at my table focused on global reach local touch. What can the EU do to help the energy transition on the very local scale? As we all know, the EU has stated high goals for efficiency and renewable integration for the year 2020 and the year 2050. Unfortunately, as things are going now, these goals will probably not be met. To my opinion, to achieve this, the EU will need to make some tough decisions. For instance, when looking to global reach, the EU should introduce a clear carbon tax, instead of a trading system. The revenues of this tax will give opportunities for investment. Furthermore, the EU should resist the will of large influential companies and shift towards a more local touch. Also Europe's internal economy must be placed before external economies to strengthen our self-sufficiency, by for instance creating a strong internal transport network, looking to the strengths of individual regions (not the weaknesses) and setting in place import tax to keep producing companies in the EU. On a more local scale funding and regulation is needed for the creation of cooperative communities on renewable energy production. For example, farms can become energy independent or even energy producers through the use of biogas plants operating on the waste of their surroundings. The produced energy can power the farm its machinery and can even be used to integrate other renewable energy sources. Furthermore, people must become proud again of their regions energy independence. Within this context, we should not focus on energy transition, but on a local energy revolution. I would certainly like to be part of this and I expect the same from the EU. Furthermore, I expect the EU to set this revolution in motion. The only question remaining is: How?

Summary

At my round table there was an interesting mix of people present with backgrounds in economy, engineering, ICT, and management. I started with the introduction round, appointing a note taker, and making my point aforementioned. Right after my opening statement there was some discussion on why I only focused on energy independent farms “why not villages or cities for that matter”. The discussion had already started before I initiated it; this was going to be a lively discussion. We followed up with a round of questions or space for remarks, to make sure my opening statement was clear to all table members. During this round there was the question; “what is the role of gas in the energy revolution”, and the remarks; “the industry should also plays a big role in the energy revolution” and; “we need to create an energy union. For the question the table decided that a big role is set aside for gas in the energy revolution, especially in balancing the electricity grid and storing access energy, hence ensuring security of supply. After the table was clear on the subject, we set out on answering the main question, stating: How to create an energy revolution? The whole table joined in to produce three key focus points for starting an energy revolution. During this discussion many key words and phrases past the review, for instance: We need to create public awareness on the subject trough a European program: We need strong leadership with stable long term policies: We must take responsibility: We must accept mistakes, learn from them and move on: The EU should focus on creating a strong internal circular economy: We need room and funding for entrepreneurs and innovators to create the ideas and inventions for the future. The broad background at the table resulted in a wide perspective on the main question, which resulted in three main focus points. These focus points could be the start for setting in motion or placing the foundation for an energy revolution. The three main points are:

- 1) We need to create a true European energy system, with binding legislation, a strong European energy grid, and consistent policies over long periods.
- 2) We also need to focus on bottom up renewable energy production by encouraging and helping local energy collectives.
- 3) We need to see this as a huge societal problem or issue, which requires full societal awareness and cooperation.

With the aforementioned action points the round table discussion came to an end. All table members indicated that this was a fruitful and enjoyable discussion with agreeable results.

Word of gratitude

For me it was very inspiring, to be able to share and discuss points of concern with people that are in the position the initiate and act in the creation of a better tomorrow. With this, I would like to thank the organization of Knowledge 4 Innovation for the chance to participate in the 6th European Innovation Summit and of course the participansts of the Knowledge 4 Innovation Lunch Debate. Hopefully we can continue this discussion next year with new candidates.

With kind regards,

Frank Pierie.

Signature

PhD. candidate HanzeResearch - Energy

Hanze University of applied science, P.O. box 3037, 9701 DA Groningen, The Netherlands

Visiting address: Zernikeplein 11, 9747 AS Groningen

T: +31 (0)50 595 4640

M: +31 (0)6 510 67 674

Appendix I: Notes note taker

Focus PhD: Measuring sustainability focusing on planet in people, planet, and profit.
Focusing on optimizing the biogas chain

Context: EU has set very ambitious goals for 2030; how to achieve this?
a) Global
b) From energy transition to energy revolution

Questions Let's make villages and farms the local part of the energy revolution
a) Why only farms? Why not villages and cities?
b) What is the role of gas in the future?

Results: How to create an energy revolution?
1) We need to create a true European Energy system
a. Binding legislation
b. A European infrastructure that works
c. Consistency in policy
2) We also need to focus on bottom up renewable energy production
a. Encourage local collectives
3) We need to see this as a huge societal problem or issue
a. This requires societal awareness

Key words: Key words used during round table discussion
1) Revolution
2) Awareness
3) Responsibility
4) Accepts mistakes
5) Strong leadership
6) Circular Economy
7) Money is no issue
8) Focus big