



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE
UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN



RECOMMENDATION

Committee on Energy, Environment and Water

on the following topics:

- 1. Potential for biomass in the Mediterranean countries**
- 2. "Let's do it"**

Rapporteurs topic 1:

Heinz-Joachim Barchmann (Germany)

Mohamed Besaïh (Algeria)

Leo Brincat (Malta)

Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (European Parliament)

Rapporteurs topic 2:

Stefan Schennach (Austria)

Imre Sooäär (Estonia)

Orit Zuaretz (Israel)

Ibrahim Abu Ayyash (Palestine)

On the potential for biomass in the Mediterranean countries

The Committee on Energy, Environment and Water of the PA-UfM concludes that

1. Hardly any in-depth analysis has been made in the field of biomass, especially in the Mediterranean region.
2. In contrast to renewable energies, especially solar energy, the Mediterranean region is lagging far behind.
3. The region's potential and external conditions need to be analysed.
4. In particular, investigations need to be made to explore under which conditions it could be worth using biomass in the individual regions around the Mediterranean.
5. The potential role of biomass in the energy mix of the countries on the Mediterranean needs to be defined.
6. Objectives and targets also need to be defined.
7. These investigations need to place particular emphasis on:
 - i. The impact of the differences between the individual regions of the Mediterranean on the conditions for the use of biomass.
 - ii. Including the different climatic, economic and social conditions of the individual regions.
 - iii. The economic, cultural, social and ecological differences between the group of countries on the Mediterranean, which mean that it will be almost impossible to formulate uniform recommendations for the whole region of the Mediterranean for the use of biomass.
 - iv. Taking particular account of the dangers of competition in land use, the waste of resources and environmental pollution.
 - v. To what extent a use of biomass is possible in countries that mainly have subtropical climates.
 - vi. To weigh up, in particular, to what extent the use of biomass makes sense when compared with other energy sources, such as solar energy.
 - vii. What consequences and impact the use of biomass will have on the ecological, social and economic conditions in the individual regions.
 - viii. To what extent biomass could make a useful contribution to existing programmes and already established energy sources.

Therefore the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water of the PA-UfM suggests

8. The availability of appropriate funding and know-how to the region's member states that need them most.
9. Applied research aimed at adapting solutions to the Mediterranean reality that have worked elsewhere (on a country/region specific basis)
10. The setting up of private-public partnerships to exploit biomass energy production commercially.
11. Need to factor in, the demographic pressures in the region that increase the need addressing waste issues more proactively.
12. Account must be taken of the low technological achievement and limited R&D in the region so far.
13. The significant agriculture and agricultural/animal wastes generated.
14. The fact that many parts of the region have tolerated environmental neglect for long in spite of more recent positive efforts to address such a deficit.
15. The added responsibility of the European component of the Mediterranean region to step up its R&D contribution to address such an issue.
16. To draw up national biomass action plans on the lines of the EU Biomass Action plan of December 2005 which had identified 32 key activity areas.
17. The need to draw up and adopt a biomass sustainability report targeted specifically at the Mediterranean region.
18. To determine how much can biomass contribute in a long term to the current/potential future Mediterranean region energy demands.
19. Biomass energy production from non-residues or agriculture waste material should supply only after the regions have achieved food self-sufficiency.
20. The organisation of an information session for Member States of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership on the ongoing work of the European Commission relating to the sustainability requirements of solid and gaseous biomass sources in electricity, heating and cooling.

On the implementation of a joint "Let's Do It Day" as part of the Union for the Mediterranean for 2012 to clean up the environment, to stimulate the waste industry and to raise environmental awareness as an initiative to create a common identity

The Committee on Energy, Environment and Water of the PA-UfM

- having regard to the “Barcelona Convention”,
- having regard to the Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal (the Basel Convention) - the most important initiative taken at international level,
- having regard to decision No 1600/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2002 laying down the Sixth Community Environment Action Programme of the Community (2002-2012) which calls for the development or revision of the legislation on waste, including a clarification of the distinction between waste and non-waste, and for the development of measures regarding waste prevention and management, including the setting of targets,
- having regard to directive 2006/12/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 5 April 2006 on waste which establishes major principles, the legislative framework for the handling of waste in the European Union and defines concepts such as waste, recovery and disposal and puts in place the essential requirements for the management of waste,
- having regard to directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain directives to improve waste management, mainly by preventing waste and increasing recycling,
- having regard to the Council Directive 1999/31/EC of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste to prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste, by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills and prevent or reduce the adverse effects of the landfill of waste on the environment, in particular on surface water, groundwater, soil, air and human health,
- having regard to the Commission Communication of 21 December 2005 "Taking sustainable use of resources forward: A Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste" (COM (2005) 666) which sets out guidelines for European Union (EU) action and describes the ways in which waste management can be improved to reduce the negative impact on the environment that is caused by waste throughout its life-span, from production to disposal, via recycling,
- having regard to the Communication from the European Commission on 5 September 2006 entitled: Establishing an environment strategy for the Mediterranean“ (COM (2006) 475 final) to protect the marine environment and the coastline of this region and to reduce pollution by 2020,
- having regard to the previous Reports of the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water especially “Water Management” (2009), “Protection of the marine environment“ (2010), “Waste Management in the Coastal Regions of the Mediterranean” (2011) and “Potential for Biomass in the Mediterranean Countries“ (2011),

- having regard to the 'Let's do it' campaign that started in 2008 in Estonia and Lithuania, and later spread to other countries, and can be viewed as an interesting case of a successful environmental waste management campaign to improve awareness, increase public participation and reduce pollution. This campaign is regarded as an inspiring example for the countries of the Mediterranean region in order to promote their environmental agenda,
- having regard to the Declaration of the European Parliament of 12 May 2011 on Cleanup in Europe and Let's do it World 2012 considering that voluntary action movement should be widely promoted in order to raise awareness and responsibility for waste management aiming at the highest possible recycling rate,

Therefore the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water of the PA-UfM

21. Believes that what is needed is a multi-component integrated system involving the full waste life cycle starting from waste generation to final disposal, taking into consideration the principles of reducing consumption, reuse, recycling and recovery.
22. Considers that the waste management of all the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership should be based on the waste-hierarchy-concept
 - i. prevention
 - ii. preparing for re-use
 - iii. recycling
 - iv. other recovery, e.g. energy recovery; and
 - v. disposal;
23. Is of the opinion that the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership are confronted with the following challenges in their waste management:
 - i. lack of surveys, statistics and consequently data and information on waste
 - ii. lack of enforcement of environmental legislation
 - iii. inadequate technical infrastructure, plans and strategies
 - iv. limited financial resources
 - v. low-level of awareness
 - vi. lack of institutional structure
 - vii. limited participation of non-governmental organizations.
24. Invites all countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership to continue and strengthen their efforts by undertaking the following:
 - i. Provide appropriate environmental legislative frameworks and give effect to international conventions regulating them.
 - ii. Develop an infrastructure for an integrated waste management system
 - iii. Develop national institutional capacities and coordinate with international institutions and organisations especially in the Mediterranean region
 - iv. Promote a more ambitious waste prevention policy
 - v. Pay greater attention and increase the efforts to combat waste by re-use, recycling and composting of waste

- vi. Develop an organization of separate waste collection systems and common reference standards for recycling
 - vii. Promote more compost, energy recovery from waste and wastewater treatment (including sustainable means of treating solid waste)
 - viii. Control hazardous waste management
 - ix. Promote technological innovation to reduce emissions from landfills and wastewaters
 - x. Encourage research and development activities
 - xi. Encourage investments into environmentally friendly waste management technologies
 - xii. Encourage further monitoring of environmental impacts and integrate environmental concerns at all stage of development and sectoral policies
 - xiii. Stop illegal trans-boundary waste traffic
 - xiv. Promote civil society by involving civil society organisations more in the decision-making process
 - xv. Intensify the exchange of good practices in the society and among the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership as a tool for strengthening of civil society
 - xvi. Encourage civil society and projects, programmes and political initiatives aiming at waste management
 - xvii. Develop and facilitate the access to accompanying financing mechanisms in order to support projects, programmes and political initiatives aiming at waste management
 - xviii. Advocate the development of in-country awareness and communication campaigns in order to better involve and mobilise public opinions towards waste management. Educational programs and public campaigns should focus on prevention of waste production through educated consumption habits.
25. Recommends that once a year all Mediterranean countries participate in an event, using the campaign “Let’s do it“ as a reference, that is intended to promote proper waste management and improve the level of knowledge about the dangers of pollution. This campaign will not only increase public awareness regarding waste, but also create a common identity factor for citizens of the Mediterranean region. In this context, some financial support from public funds would be helpful to support and maintain the initiative.
26. Stresses that these efforts have the potential to improve the cost effectiveness of the waste policies and result in significant environmental and social benefits. For example, waste policies that are more focused on environmental impacts can also be considered more efficient and cost-effective as a result of increased waste recovery, reduction of emissions from waste disposal and carbon credit potential from reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.