

SPANISH POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. ENERGETIC SCENE IN ANDALUSIA

It is an indisputable fact, that in general energy consumption in our region is growing of unstoppable form and even over the Andalusian gross domestic product (GDP). On the other hand, the energy supplying model in Andalusia is linked to the use of fossil fuels, petrol-type and by-products. This way, The Andalusian Plan for Energetic Sustainability of Andalusia, for 2007, and for Andalusia in general defined the following scheme of energetic consumption:

- Petrol consumption: 50%
- Natural Gas: 31 %
- Coal: 14 %
- Renewable Energies: 4.5 %

This data makes us deduce that external energetic dependence of Andalusia, surpasses 90 %, which implies an enormous weakness and economic vulnerability facing situations which nowadays worldwide in the case of supplying and continuous increase in prices of energies from fossil fuels.

In the case of the province of Jaén, it is similar to that describe above, meaning that the level of self-supplying in the province hardly surpasses 9 %, which situates the different economic sectors of the province in very extremely important vulnerabilities and high economic costs in different productive activities.

Facing theses situations, new challenges appear for the current energetic model, goals derivated from the concept of “new energy culture”, as a consequence of “an obvious weakness and dependence” of our energetic system, based on the consumption of fossil fuels, their rise in prices and the necessary and obliged necessity of a self-sufficient principle, which make it advisable and necessary the

1

abandonment and progressive replacement of fossil fuels in favour of renewable energies, specially if these can be generated in local environments.

Other factors, which include in a determining way, are the “NEW ENERGETIC FRAMEWORK” and the problem of the climate change issue which makes it absolutely necessary to carry out an adequate management in the raising demand of energy, as well as the progressive substitution of fossil fuels in favour of renewable energies, which amongst them, outstands biomass from agriculture origin from olive farming at least in Jaén.

2. ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF THE VALORIZATION OF OLIVE BIOMASS.

There are many arguments in favour for the use of biomass:

- Norms related to good agriculture conditions as well as environmental good practices, demand the necessity to improve the sustainability of olive farming practices.
- There is a compromise from the Spanish Government in relation with the denominated Kyoto Protocol, and the obligation to reduce CO₂ emissions in the following years. The use of biomass for energetic reasons, will contribute without any doubt, the obtaining of the mentioned objective, as it is considered that the balance of CO₂ emission is neutral.
- The unstoppable increase in the prices of fossil fuels makes it necessary to find other sustainable new energy sources easy to produce.
- The olive sector and olive oil, due to the current economic situation and economic previsions on a short and medium term, it is essential to carry out

all the efforts which are necessary to guarantee an authentic diversification in different economic activities within this olive territory.

- The growing environmental conscious and media pressure in our society in the matter of agriculture and agriculture practices in our olive territory, also affects olive farming and olive oil sectors, specially if we take into account that this cultivation is of great importance due to its environmental, economic and social dimension within regional community.

3. SITUATION OF THE MARKET: BIOMASS FOR ELECTRIC USE

In the actual Renewable Energy Plan (PER) 2005 – 2010, the biomass have the clear objective of reach 1.317 MW in 2010, nevertheless to the date of April they have been reached 648 MW.

The prices for the biomass during 2009 have been alone 158.000 €, opposite to the 2,33 M€ of the photovoltaic systems or the 1,1 M€ to the eolic.

To give the sector a boost, which is necessary, it is essential to actualise the price to compensate the rise of investment costs, which have grown around 30 % in the last four years. The prices don't make viable from the economic point of view, so we have the paradox that in a very dependent country energetically, the majority of the biomass is export to Europe, especially to Italy and to the United Kingdom, because in those countries the prices to the electrical generation are higher, and therefore, they can pay more for the biomass.

Spain is the third country with more biomass energy potential in Europe, while it occupies the 11th position as for installed capacity according to the information of the IES (International Energy Agency).

The Ministry of Industry is urged to give the biomass a main role in the project “Law of Renewable Energies and Energetic Efficiency” applying also to Environmental Official Bodies which regulate in a stricter manner the removal of residues and requiring the Regions to facilitate information to biomass investors.

The biomass is the “renewable hope” because their installed MW are very productive and it is a technology in which raw materials can be guaranteed.

If these objective established in the biomass Plan are fulfilled, the emission of 14.6 Mt CO₂ would be avoided due to the burning and burying of these agricultural wastes.

As to social benefits, between 8 and 10 stable jobs are created for each biomass MW installed located in rural environments.

All the implied agents in the bioenergy sector cannot remain paralyzed, they have to open new markets emphasizing the advantages of the biomass in usefulness, price and costs, for example in the market of the biomass for thermal uses, only in the area of colleges there are approximately 3.500 thermal megawatts dependent on change, with a potential volume of business of 1.000 M€, with an aptitude to generate employment also considerably: for every terawatio/h produced in the step of diesel oil or natural gas to biomass 300 direct working places and 100 indirect believe themselves.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Establish an specific Andalusian plan orientated to encourage in a decisive way the promotion of olive biomass as an alternative within rural environment and the obtaining of a different energy to those derivated from fossil fuels.

2. Promote research and support for the establishing of a competitive industrial system centred in olive biomass in the province of Jaén.

3. A commitment to work in this sense working at all levels of the system which starts out with the administration and reaches farmers and industry, promoting it in a specific way:

- a) Establishing adequate rules which regulate, in an independent manner, this sector, taking into account its specific nature.
- b) Putting into effect studies and / or research projects, development and innovation (I+D+I) aimed to improve and transfer the knowledge in this field.
- c) Carrying out information activities.
- d) Promoting all the proposed measures already mentioned by establishing and formalizing agreements with competent Official Bodies and associated industries.
- e) Boost in establishing companies in the service sector associated with the use of olive biomass.

4. Promote together with Official Bodies and Industries related with the developing of projects and experiences related to the use of biomass.

5. Collaborate and promote in carrying out informative actions.

6. Reach a necessary diversification and integral in olive farming, promote the development and execution of projects.

7. Review the price system for the production of electric energy using olive biomass.

We must not forget that olive farming is the only woods which can be 100 % managed because the number of olives in the territory are known.

