

Stronger cooperation between Germany, Spain and Slovenia in the field of renewable energies

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Slovenia, Spain and Germany are planning to work together more closely when it comes to the promotion of renewable energies. On January 29, 2007, the German Federal Minister for the Environment, Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, the Slovenian Minister for the Economy, Mr. Andrej Vizjak, and the Spanish General Secretary of Energy from the Spanish Ministry for Industry, Mr. Ignasi Nieto Magaldi, signed a Joint Declaration at the European Renewable Energy Policy Conference in Brussels, establishing a basis for the cooperation within the International Feed-In Cooperation. Slovenia thus becomes the third state to take part in the cooperation that already exists since June 2004, when Spain and Germany founded it at the *renewables2004* conference in Bonn.

The cooperation aims to support the promotion of renewable energies in countries applying a feed-in tariff system for this purpose. By now, 18 EU Member States are using this policy instrument, which proved to be the most efficient and the most effective way of promoting renewable energies for the generation of electricity.

The cooperation is supposed to contribute to a stronger exchange of experiences between these countries in order to increase the share of renewable energies in the generation of electricity, to increase investor security, and with it, decrease the costs for renewable energies. It is therefore intended to assist further countries with the introduction of such a system or with the improvement of existing systems.

For this purpose, the cooperation already organized two workshops in Madrid, Spain, and one in Berlin, Germany. All workshops led to a vivid and inspiring exchange of experiences. The International Feed-In Cooperation also launched several research projects. The first one compared the German and the Spanish feed-in tariffs. Another study evaluated feed-in tariff systems with respect to their effectivity and their efficiency and compared feed-in tariff systems to other policy instruments such as quota models. The latest study analyzes and evaluates different design options of feed-in tariff systems. In addition, the International Feed-In Cooperation also provides a website, where all important documents and the latest information on the cooperation can be found. For more information, please visit: www.feed-in-cooperation.org.