

Joint Declaration
between
the Ministry for Industry, Tourism and Trade of the Kingdom of Spain
and
the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of
the Federal Republic of Germany
on
cooperation on the development and promotion of a feed-in system to increase
the use of renewable energy sources in the production of electricity

The Ministry for Industry, Tourism and Trade of the Kingdom of Spain and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany

note

- that increasing the use of renewable energies is essential for achieving sustainable development at national and global level,
- that renewable energies offer important new ways to reduce pollution, to diversify and secure the energy supply and help provide access to energy which is important for poverty eradication,
- that the burning of fossil fuels is the greatest source of greenhouse gas emissions and that these emissions must be reduced in order to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and achieve the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of 9 May 1992,

and

- emphasise that, on the basis of experience to date with the feed-in system, this instrument is one of the systems best suited to promoting the production of electricity from renewable energies.

1. The two sides therefore express their determination

- to promote renewable energies,
- to promote an increase in the share of renewable energies in the overall national and global primary energy supply,
- to improve the feed-in system in their respective countries,
- to assist other countries which wish to establish and implement a similar model,

and

- to cooperate on the further development of the feed-in system and exchange experiences.

2. The two sides declare their willingness to help

- a) ensure that, since technological development in the field of renewable energies is very rapid, their cooperation proves useful in further developing the legal provisions of the feed-in system in their countries,
- b) make the feed-in systems even more effective,
- c) ensure that further technological development brings about further cost reductions,
- d) ensure that the administrative procedures become more efficient and transparent,
- e) improve the feed-in systems worldwide by
 - promoting the exchange of experiences between countries,
 - demonstrating the advantages of feed-in systems,
 - drawing up a best practice paper which specifies the criteria for success, for example feed-in tariffs, guaranteed and priority grid access for installations generating electricity from renewable energies as well as the priority right to feed in the electricity from renewable energies,
 - assisting other countries which wish to develop and introduce a similar system,
 - presenting the possibilities for harmonising different national feed-in systems and aligning these with the principles of international trade.

3. The two sides share the understanding

- a) that research institutes or companies (research partners) from both countries shall be involved in joint projects carried out within the framework of this cooperation,
- b) that each side shall bear its own costs resulting from its participation in this cooperation, including the costs for the participating research partners, unless specifically agreed otherwise,
- c) that the results of the cooperation projects, including all collected raw data, shall be made available in full to the other side on equal conditions.

4. The two sides therefore declare their intention to

- a) support international fora dealing with this issue,
- b) create a bilateral working group and as far as possible hold biannual seminars,
- c) compile annual progress reports and as far as possible complete the best practice paper by the end of 2006,

- d) continue their work on the best practice paper beyond 2006 at regular intervals of two years, in order to update and improve this paper.
5. The two sides emphasise their endeavours to involve
- a) other countries and
 - b) stakeholders
- in this cooperation, where interest exists.
6. The two sides shall ensure
- a) that information exchanged within the framework of this cooperation is treated as confidential if so desired by one side,
 - b) that within the framework of this cooperation, intellectual property rights are protected in accordance with the respective national regulations.
7. Cooperation under this Joint Declaration shall commence on the date of signature thereof, and shall be continued until one side informs the other in writing – at least three months in advance – of its wish to terminate cooperation under this Joint Declaration.

This Joint Declaration shall be signed in duplicate in the German and Spanish languages.

Madrid, October 6, 2005

For the

Ministry for Industry, Tourism and Trade of
the Kingdom of Spain

Antonio Fernández Segura
Secretary General for Energy

For the

Ministry for the Environment, Nature
Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the
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