

Address of the Permanent Secretary for Environment and Transport of the Land Berlin Maria Krautzberger

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me as a member of the Berlin Government to welcome such a distinguished international audience.

In the national climate protection programme, the Federal Government set its objectives for the climate protection policy. In the new energy programme for Berlin, we as regional government specify how the city can contribute to achieve these goals. Berlin has always considered combined heat and power and renewables, especially solar energy, as the pillars for its urban development. Most representative buildings in the “new Berlin” are best practice buildings and demonstrate the integration of renewables. We have just passed an Energy Action Plan that should help us reaching our ambitious objective of reducing our CO₂ emissions by 25% by the year 2010. It falls to public authorities to lead the way in climate protection. Berlin is well aware of its responsibility. As the greatest potential for energy savings and related actions is to be found in the building stock, the Berlin government has initiated exemplary actions in public buildings – the so-called Energy Saving Partnership (ESP).

But also renewables are for us of crucial importance. Determined action by public authorities in close cooperation with citizens’ solar initiatives will be the right track for persisting in our declared objective. One of our initiatives is the promotion of the installation of photovoltaic systems on the roofs of public buildings. Private operators invest in this technique and reinvest through the feed-in revenues under the Renewable Energy Act.

The choice of adequate instruments of support is not only relevant for the European Union and the national states. Also for regional governments like the Land Berlin for example coordinated actions in order to overcome the existing barriers to the further development of renewables are increasingly important. Beside that, energy efficiency and renewables have become also in Berlin a notable economic factor and a job-creation sector.

Today policies regarding renewables have to cope with new structural challenges: national and EU targets for greenhouse gases (GHG), targets for increasing the share of renewables and liberalised markets are not necessarily compatible.

For the market for renewable energy technologies, the liberalisation of the power market, access to electricity grids, electricity feed-in rates, planning regulations, financing schemes,

standards and labelling have a significant influence. Despite a general consensus that investments in RES generation should be increased, there is little agreement as to the instruments. We hear all the time that green power is more costly than “conventional electricity”. We do not often hear about the negative external effects related to fossil (and nuclear) fuels. Liberalisation has made some progress and rendered some planning and support instruments and approaches of the past out of date. However, also in liberalised electricity markets incentives are still needed to foster investments and reach our sustainability targets.

Against this background, REALISE-Forum has the merit of discussing the interaction between liberalised or liberalising energy markets and policies and measures supporting the market penetration of renewable generated electricity, concentrating on and feed in and quota systems. But its merit is especially in the involvement of stakeholders in five different countries that the project has managed to set into motion. And the way the project has managed to deal with relatively “ideological” position in a balanced way. In the participating countries, REALISE Forum has established a regular dialogue and platform for exchanging viewpoints among policy makers, energy providers, associations, consumer associations and NGOs and other stakeholders beyond predetermined positions. Today this dialogue will be continued at an international level. I wish the organisers and the participants a fruitful discussion and lot of success.