



6th European Innovation Summit *A Mandate for Innovation in Europe*

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European Parliament, Brussels

#6EIS



Abstract

Knowledge 4 Innovation Lunch Debate

November 19th 2014, Brussels

Join the Energy Revolution

Marcel van der Werf
"We need more intensive collaboration to create energy innovation."

Frank Pierie
"The time for energy transition has passed, we need an energy revolution."

András Perl
"We all need to act now for a sustainable tomorrow."

Juliana Montoya Cardona
"Do not take quality of life for granted, all our resources are limited."

Sybren Jansma
"Challenge young talent to create a sustainable future."

Austin Dsouza
"Why is Europe not the entrepreneurial hotspot?"

Introduction

During the K4I lunch debate Hanze UAS PhD level researchers of different nationalities presented their ideas about their EU in 2050 in terms of intrinsic qualities. They discussed how the EU should look in 2050, taking their PhD content into account and shared their views on actions that we should undertake today as a priority. They also examined to what extent these priorities are in balance with today's practice. This Younger's Revolution is the core of this lunch debate.

About the speaker

András Perl: Andras works as a researcher and he is involved in renewable energy engineering topics. His current research deals with advanced methane storage methods. He studied chemistry at Babeş-Bolyai University (Romania) and Twente University (The Netherlands). He was involved in numerous research projects with various topics both in industry and academy before joining Hanze UAS.



Round table discussion

Topic: Sustainable Europe

I would like to live in a sustainable Europe (focus is on the energy aspects and carbon dioxide emission). Fossil fuels are bad for the environment and they are offering a non-sustainable alternative.

The 2050 EU roadmap sets excellent goals, but it is not visible how that will be realized. We should not wait; we have to act now – the later we act, the more our next generation will pay.

Recently it was discussed that the EU is committed by 2030 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40%, and increase energy efficiency and renewables by at least 27%. The EU level target is not legally binding at the national level or EU level and will be reviewed in 2020.

But is that enough?

The EU spends more than €1 billion per day on importing energy from third countries. This can undermine the fight for Europe's energy independency.

The EU council gave veto power against better goals to Poland on renewables, to France on electricity interconnectors, and to the UK on efficiency.

We have to end Europe's dependency on fossil fuels and speed up our transition to a clean energy future.

I would like to help the transition, how can I be involved more actively? How could we urge the decision makers to act for a sustainable Europe?

Summary

The K4I lunch debate was an excellent opportunity to make my voice heard and to share my vision of Europe with the political decision makers. The idea to go to The European Parliament, be there and contribute, gave the euphoria of limitless possibilities and realization. However, the overall experience and the drawn conclusions are more earth-bound.

I really enjoyed hosting a table and moderate a discussion between people at the right position to act in favor of my vision of a sustainable society. Although it was a bit disappointing when I realized, that many members of the parliament would not show up but send their assistants instead.

The discussion was clearly pointing towards a fossil fuel-free future; all the participants were very supportive. Everybody agreed on the main conclusions:

- There is a need for a job creating integral European energy market vested with meaningful legislation
- The public opinion has to be influenced towards environmental awareness, there is a need for smart communities
- Renewable energy has to offer a competitive price and has to be made attractive to the people

Although these conclusions and statements sound good, I have the feeling that we have a hard and bumpy way ahead to realize all these requirements. But I think that, even if with a small degree, I contributed with something to our sustainable Europe.

With kind regards,

Andr s Perl

Signature

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