

Joint Declaration
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
(International Feed-In Cooperation)

I.

The undersigned (hereinafter referred to as “the Partners”)

1. note

- a) that increasing the use of renewable energies is essential for achieving sustainable development at national and global level,
- b) that renewable energies offer important ways to reduce environmental pollution, to diversify and secure the energy supply and help provide access to energy which is important for poverty eradication,
- c) 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

- 2. 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.

II.

- 1. The Partners therefore express their determination, within their sphere of responsibility,
 - a) to promote renewable energies,
 - b) to promote an increase in the share of renewable energies in the overall national and global primary energy supply,
 - c) to improve the feed-in system in their respective states,
 - d) to assist other states which wish to establish and implement a similar model, and
 - e) to cooperate on the further development of the feed-in system and exchange experiences.

III.

The Partners declare their willingness to help to

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

IV.

The Partners share the understanding

1. that where projects are carried out jointly within the framework of this cooperation, measures should be taken to ensure that the research institutes or research companies of more than one Partner are involved in such joint projects
2. that each Partner should be responsible for its own costs resulting from its participation in joint projects under this cooperation, including the costs for any participating research institutes, unless specifically agreed otherwise between the Partners,
3. that the results of joint cooperation projects, including all collected raw data, should be made available in full to the other Partners on equal conditions.

V.

The Partners therefore declare their intention to

1. support international forums dealing with the issues and topics addressed in sections I and II
2. create a working group comprised of representatives of the individual Partners,
3. hold seminars which should
 - a) address the issues and topics mentioned in sections I and II, and
 - b) take place biannually, when possible,
4. document best practices and continue this work at regular intervals of two years, in order to update and improve the documentation.

VI.

The Partners emphasise their endeavours to involve

1. other states, who need not be Partners within the meaning of this Joint Declaration, and
 2. stakeholders
- in this cooperation, where interest exists.

VII.

Each Partner promises to ensure

1. that information provided by one Partner within the framework of this cooperation is treated as confidential if that Partner so desires
2. that within the framework of this cooperation, intellectual property rights are protected in accordance with the respective national regulations applicable to each Partner.

VIII.

The Partners share the understanding

1. that this Joint Declaration is not intended to give rise to any rights or duties under international treaty law among the Partners,
2. that this Joint Declaration may be amended or supplemented by mutual consent of all Partners in writing at any time,
3. that any disagreement regarding the implementation of this cooperation on the basis of this Joint Declaration should be resolved by mutual consent of all the Partners.

IX.

The Partners furthermore share the understanding that

1. the German partner should exercise the coordinating functions for the International Feed-In-Cooperation on the basis of this Joint Declaration,
2. that the German partner
 - a) should keep the original copy of this Joint Declaration with the original signatures of the Partners and
 - b) should provide every Partner with a certified true copy of the original bearing all the signatures.

X.

1. The Partners express the hope that other states might wish to participate in this International Feed-In Cooperation by signing this Joint Declaration.
2. The Partners share the understanding
 - a) that another state might participate in this International Feed-In Cooperation by signing this Joint Declaration, if there is mutual consent among all the Partners having already signed this Joint Declaration,
 - b) that if there is mutual consent among the Partners, the German partner, in the coordinating capacity pursuant to section IX, should ask the state wishing to participate in this International Feed-In-Cooperation to sign the original of this Joint Declaration,
 - c) that the German partner in the coordinating capacity pursuant to section IX, number 1, should provide every other Partner with a certified true copy of this Joint Declaration bearing all the signatures, after having been signed by an additional Partner.

XI.

Finally, the Partners share the understanding

1. that cooperation on the basis of this Joint Declaration should commence for each Partner on the date of signature thereof,
2. that any Partner may terminate cooperation under this Joint Declaration by informing the German Partner in the coordinating capacity pursuant to Section IX, number 1, in writing, at least three months in advance, of its intention to terminate cooperation under this Joint Declaration,
3. that the coordinating German Partner should provide all other Partners with a certified true copy of this letter voicing the Partner's intention to terminate cooperation under this Joint Declaration.

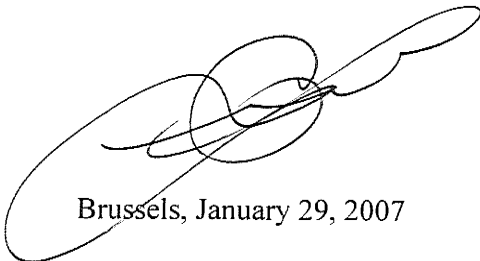
This Joint Declaration is signed in one single copy in the English language.

For the
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Mr. Sigmar Gabriel
Minister



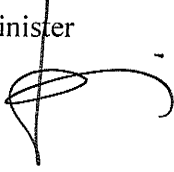
Brussels, January 29, 2007

For the
Ministry for Industry, Tourism and Trade of the Kingdom of Spain
Mr. Ignasi Nieto Magaldi
Secretary General for Energy



Brussels, January 29, 2007

For the
Ministry of the Economy of the Republic of Slovenia
Mr. Andrej Vizjak
Minister

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a vertical line on the left, a horizontal loop in the middle, and a curved line extending to the right.

Brussels, January 29, 2007

(future partner)

(Place), dated

(future partner)

(Place), dated