LOCCUM PROTESTANT ACADEMY

outline and first official announcement (as of March 5th, 2007)

Alternative Energy Policies Facilitating Poverty Reduction: The (Business) Case of Sub-Saharan Africa

International Workshop in the Evangelische Akademie Loccum
from Monday, June 25th to Wednesday 27th, 2007

1. Background

While international terrorism is generally regarded as the greatest threat of the 21st century in the public´s perception with attention focussed on this phenomenon leaving a strong mark on the entire political agenda of the West, research has shown again and again that there are other dangers of far greater magnitude; this also applies to a recent analysis by the Oxford Research Group. It identifies climate change, the struggle for scarce resources, marginalization of a majority of the world population and worldwide militarization as the real causes of conflict and global insecurity in the 21st century. Current strategies in response to these challenges continue to follow the so-called „control paradigm“ by attempting – yet increasingly less successfully - to maintain the status quo by military means and to keep global insecurity in check without addressing the root causes. In contrast, a „sustainable security paradigm“ would be more consistent and not only deal with the symptoms of such dangers. Environmental problems and scarcity of resources, in particular, can no longer be addressed in isolation from global socio-economic distortions, while the impact of scarce resources and climate change cannot be minimized other than by considerably reducing consumption of energy and using regenerative forms of energy, according to the study mentioned.

While there is currently general consensus about the relevance of the last two factors in energy policy, opinions are strongly divided as to how soon and by what strategic means it will be possible to reduce the dependence of both industrial and industrializing societies on fossile sources of energy – coal, petroleum and natural gas – and nuclear energy. The present rapid price increases on world markets will contribute to a greater measure of independence from crude oil on the part of industries and motor

transport in the medium and longer term, but for the time being it is primarily an indication of global competition – with the USA and China as the two presently most aggressive and most powerful protagonists in trade and global action - over future access to supplies of energy under increasingly more difficult conditions.

Against this background, the European Union and its member states still find themselves in an apparently privileged situation which may, however, become relatively complicated in the longer term. Their central geographical situation, which gives them a comparative advantage over other countries, still ensures stable economic access to all important regions extracting energy raw materials; and their higher levels of energy efficiency compared to the USA and China still give their industries a competitive edge. Their energy supply infrastructure is also in relatively good shape although some extreme weather conditions in recent years have drawn attention to some shortcomings.

Yet what the EU does not have is a coherent foreign energy policy enabling it to pursue - as forcefully as the USA and China - their common interest in reliable supplies of energy. Instead, internal rivalries prevail, such as when Germany seeks to reserve to itself exclusive access to Russian natural gas by building the Baltic Sea pipeline or when profound differences of opinion regarding the future use of nuclear energy prevent the formulation of an effective joint strategy for research and development in the energy sector.

2. Objectives and Contents

By organizing this meeting we would like to shift a differentiated public discourse towards the overall political goal of attaining energy security. It is planned to identify the relevant determinants influencing the functionability of energy supply systems within the context of the European economy and to do so from a theoretical-scientific perspective when required and by discussing political practice to the extent possible. In order to achieve this aim it will be necessary to focus on both the geo-strategic, economic and trade-political, the technological and – given energy-intensive collective lifestyles – the socio-political dimensions and, if required, on the implications this may have for European policy-making.

To discuss the following concrete questions might provide much food for thought and insight:

- What energy saving potential is still untapped and might be utilized by what means of political and corporate strategies at what level: local, regional, national, EU, OECD, UN?

- What structural and political obstacles hinder a more dynamic development in favour of the use of alternative sources of energy and what might be the most effective approach to counter such obstacles – and again at what levels of policy-making?
- How to ensure or stimulate fair and free competition amongst the suppliers of energy, both old and new, most effectively?
- Might a temporary renaissance of nuclear energy help to resolve some of the macro-economic or socio-economic problems on the road towards sustainable energy management - or conversely, would this lock up too much capital in a technological impasse?
- What level of intensity and contractual arrangement is necessary and desirable for cooperation with Russia in the energy sector and what will be the resulting political implications?
- How much importance is attached to future international cooperation in connection with the global regime of climate protection, especially with the USA and also with India and China?
- What are the prospects for a peaceful integration of Iraq and Iran in the global energy supply system and what role can and must Europe play in this context?

At the end of the meeting participants should have a clearer idea of where urgent action needs to be taken for „an energy security policy for Europe and beyond“, the kind of actors who are particularly challenged in this process and appropriate strategic alliances amongst them. In this context, special attention will also be paid to the question of how to involve the relevant civil-society groups to a greater extent.

Seit Beginn der 90er-Jahre des letzten Jahrhunderts, verstärkt aber seit dem Jahr 2000 steht die Finanzierung der großflächigen Verbreitung Erneuerbarer Energien in Entwicklungsländern immer wieder auf der Agenda internationaler Konferenzen, Institutionen und politischer Gipfeltreffen. Analysen wurden gemacht, Finanzierungsmodelle entworfen und Handlungsempfehlungen ausgesprochen, doch bewegt hat sich bislang noch nicht viel. Die bislang wichtigsten Ansätze sind:

***Globale Umweltfazilität** (GEF, Global Environment Facility), seit 1991:*
Die Globale Umweltfazilität ist ein internationaler Finanzierungsmechanismus, der in Entwicklungsländern und den Ländern Zentral- und Osteuropas in Projekte investiert, die einen globalen Umweltnutzen bringen. In der Regel finanziert die GEF nur die zusätzlichen Kosten, die einem Projekt durch Rücksicht auf globale Umweltschutzinteressen, wie beispielsweise den Klimaschutz, entstehen.

***Clean Development Mechanism** (CDM), 1997:*
Der Clean Development Mechanism ist eines der Instrumente des Kyoto-Protokolls, in dem sich die Industrieländer verpflichtet haben, ihren jährlichen Treibhausgasausstoß bis 2012 um 5,2 Prozent gegenüber 1990 zu reduzieren. Im Rahmen des CDM finanzieren Industrieländer verstärkt Programme – statt wie früher Projekte – zur Emissionsreduktion in Entwicklungsländern. Allerdings ist dieses Instrument zu unbedeutend, um eine flächendeckende Verbreitung Erneuerbarer Energien zu bewirken.

***G8 Renewable Energy Task Force**,*
eine temporäre Einrichtung, die im Jahr 2000 beim G8-Gipfel in Okinawa etabliert worden war: Aufgabe der Task Force war die Erarbeitung von Handlungsempfehlungen für den verstärkten Einsatz und die großflächige Verbreitung von Erneuerbaren Energien weltweit. Ziel war die Versorgung einer Milliarde Menschen mit Erneuerbaren Energien in den Entwicklungsländern bis zum Jahr 2010, speziell mit netzunabhängigem Strom und mit verbesserten Herden. In den von der Task Force erarbeiteten

Empfehlungen wird explizit auf das Potenzial der Erneuerbaren Energien zur Verminderung der Armut in den Entwicklungsländern eingegangen, ebenso werden detaillierte Vorschläge zur Finanzierung vorgestellt. Diese bezogen insbesondere die Internationalen Finanzinstitutionen mit ein.
http://www.worldenergy.org/wec-geis/focus/renew/g8.asp

***Patient Capital Initiative** (Initiative für geduldiges Kapital), 2002:*
Die Initiative wurde im Anschluss an den Weltgipfel für nachhaltige Entwicklung (WSSD) in Johannesburg von JREC (Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition) ins Leben gerufen. Ihre Arbeit führte zur Schaffung von GREFF.

***Global Renewable Energy Fund of Funds** (Globaler Dachfonds für Erneuerbare Energien, GREFF), ab 2007:*
Der Dachfonds ist eine Finanzierungsinitiative der Europäischen Kommission.
Unternehmer im Bereich Erneuerbare Energien in Entwicklungs- und Übergangsländern erhalten daraus Risikokapital zu erschwinglichen Bedingungen. Der Fonds ist mit 100 Millionen Euro ausgestattet und wird 2007 erstmals aufgelegt.
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/jrec/pdf/pci_summary_brochure_final.pdf

***Clean Energy Investment Framework**, ist im Entstehen:*
Die Weltbank lässt derzeit einen Rahmenplan für Finanzierungsinstrumente unter besonderer Berücksichtigung des privaten Sektors erarbeiten. Ziele sind erstens, mehr und bessere Investitionen in Entwicklungsländern zur Deckung des wachsenden Energiebedarfs sowie verbesserter Zugang der Armen zu Energie und, zweitens, Verminderung der Treibhausgase durch Reduktion von Kohlendioxidemissionen. Die inzwischen auf dem Tisch liegenden Vorschläge werden allerdings von Seiten der Nichtregierungsorganisationen heftig kritisiert. Die Weltbank, sei, so einer der Kritikpunkte, nicht dafür qualifiziert, Ratschläge zu erteilen, da sie selbst viel zu sehr im Bereich fossile Energien engagiert sei. Außerdem habe sie bislang noch keine Analyse darüber vorgelegt,wie sich die von ihr finanzierten Projekte auf den Klimawandel auswirken, und, drittens, sei die Weltbank der weltweit größte öffentliche Händler von CO_2-Emissionszertifikaten. Daher seien die Vorschläge einseitig zugunsten der Weltbank formuliert und so ausgelegt, dass die Institution unter dem Deckmantel „saubere Energie und Entwicklung“ von „einer Tasche in die andere wirtschaften“ könne, so Daphne Wysham vom Institute for Policy Studies (IPC).
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMMINT/Documentation/21046509/DC2006-0012(E)-CleanEnergy.pdf
http://www.ips-dc.org/comment/wysham_wb_2006.htm

3. Participants

Energy-political actors from business associations; consumer organizations, associations involved in environmental and development policies and citizens´action groups with a focus on energy policy and trade unions; representatives of businesses, political parties, public authorities and academic institutions; and, in particular, representatives of small energy utilities, interested citizens.

4. Cooperation partner

This conference is prepared and implemented in cooperation with the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung;

5. Organization

The conference will be held on the premises of the Loccum Protestant Academy with about 70 participants. The conference fee for participants, including accommodation and meals is € 180,- (concessionary fee € 90,- provided certain conditions are met).

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