



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**  
**The Secretariat**

**Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and  
Environmental Activities**

**Vienna, 1 October 2008**

**STUDY VISIT ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGIES**  
**- BELARUS DELEGATION -**

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Vienna, Güssing 8 – 10 September 2008

Report

A Delegation of 6 experts from energy related institutions and ministries of the Republic of Belarus took part in a Study Visit on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies in Austria, on 8-10 September 2008.

The representatives came from the State Standardization Committee, the Ministry of Economy of Belarus, the State Committee for Science and Technology, the Ministry of Agriculture and Foodstuff Ministry of Housing and Communal Services, the International Sakharov Environmental University and the Permanent Delegation of Belarus to the OSCE.

The Study Visit was organized by the OSCE/Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, in co-operation with the OSCE Office in Minsk and with the support of the Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE, as well as the Austrian Energy Agency.

The project focussed on energy efficiency and on the use of renewable energy and drew its mandate from the OSCE Ministerial Decision (MC.DEC/12/06), itself referring to the use of renewable energy, a key element of the Saint Petersburg Action Plan on Global Energy Security.

The Study Visit was part of the preparatory process for the *Regional Expert Workshop on Improving Energy Efficiency in Central and Eastern Europe, taking place next week in Minsk, on 6-7 October 2008*. The conference aims at presenting the experience of the countries and organizations in the area of energy efficiency in order to share the lessons learned on how to address in the most effective way this crucial challenge.

*The Study Visit in Austria* focussed at an exchange of information on renewable energy, energy efficiency policies, as well as best practices of environmentally sounded energy management in industrial, housing and urban areas. The aspects of public awareness, capacity building and regional/international co-operation were be highlighted too.

The programme started with a workshop organized by the Austrian Energy Agency, outlining the Austrian energy landscape and its focus on renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. It informed about the activities of the Austrian Energy Agency, its international co-operation and presented best practices in the industrial and housing/building sector. Further site visits were organized at the Biomasse Kraftwerk Simmering, the Energy Park Bruck a/a Leitha, and the European Center of Renewable Energy in Güssing, the Kraftwerk Simmering and the Vienna Energy House. A dinner with selected representatives from the Austrian private sector and public authorities enabled more informal exchanges.

Outcome:

1. Detailed insights in policies and technical best practices in energy efficiency and renewable energies in Austria were provided.
2. A bilateral co-operation agreement with the Austrian Energy Agency and the Government of Belarus was discussed and will lead to a follow up in Minsk, on the margins of the Regional Expert Workshop on Improving Energy Efficiency in Central and Eastern Europe, in Minsk, on 6-7 October 2008.
3. The representative of the Ministry of Agriculture took strong interest in the upcoming pilot project of the EEE/Güssing, which will test a “straw-driven” biomass plant. Further contacts will be established.
4. The representative of the Ministry of Housing was seeking for information on providers of waste incineration facilities and will contact again the EEE/Güssing.
5. The representative of the International Sakharov Environmental University wished to establish a program similar to the postgraduate MSc Program "Renewable Energy in Central and Eastern Europe" of the Energie Park Bruck a/d Leitha. Preliminary contacts were established.
6. In addition, the complexity and flexibility of the energy supply network in Vienna, as well as the Vienna Energy House, as best practice for a public information and servicing centre, left a strong impression to the delegation.