

**Plenary Session A:
Opening Ministerial Segment
Thursday, 3 June, 9.00 – 12.00 h
Venue: Plenary Hall IKBB**

Internationale Konferenz
für Erneuerbare Energien, Bonn
International Conference
for Renewable Energies, Bonn



SPEECH

We are making good progress

The Age of Renewables has now begun

Jürgen Trittin

**Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety,
Germany**

Distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

We have reached the halfway stage of our Conference – and we are making good progress. The International Action Programme already contains 132 projects. By 12 noon today there may be even more. The **pioneering spirit**, which Federal Chancellor Schröder captured with his invitation to *renewables2004*, can be felt here today at this Bonn Conference.

The Action Programme contains **significant new financial commitments** – from individual countries but also from international organisations such as the *World Bank* and the *Global Environment Facility*. In the Action Programme a range of countries have set themselves **new targets for increasing the use of renewables – with specific timeframes.**

In *Germany* we have set ourselves **ambitious expansion targets** for renewables. We have doubled the share of renewable energies in electricity generation within five years. Now we want to cover 20% of our current energy demand with renewables by 2020. This **20% target** is part of the **Renewable Energy Sources Act**. We have thus made it **legally binding.**

The Renewable Energy Sources Act provides a reliable investment framework for renewable energies. It has led to a boom in the renewables sector, which currently employs 120,000 people.

The fees are **fixed for 20 years**, but are structured **degressively**. **They decrease from year to year**. This creates impetus for research and development. This model costs the average household one euro per month.

In Germany between 1998 and 2003 we were thus able to

- ↪ **double bioenergy use,**
- ↪ **quadruple wind power use** and
- ↪ **increase our photovoltaic capacity six-fold.**

This new market and the degression have led to a massive reduction in costs for renewables as a result of technological innovation and mass production.

- ↪ Nowadays **wind power installations** cost **30% less** than 10 years ago.
- ↪ **Photovoltaic systems** have even become **more than 50% cheaper**.

It is now **less expensive** to build a wind park on the northern German coast than a **new nuclear power plant**.

Further cost reductions of one-third are also possible.

These cost reductions are the best way of making renewables affordable for developing countries too. This is a central prerequisite for development in the countries in the South. **If we want to halve poverty we have to create access to energy for one billion people.**

These are the goals of the International Action Programme.

Now it is time to:

- ↪ continue contributing to the Action Programme
- ↪ link this Programme appropriately to the Political Declaration
- ↪ combine it with the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

We are making good progress. The age of renewables has begun.