

## CHARTER RENREN (Renewable Energy Regions Network)

### **Against the background of**

the rapidly changing global energy situation including

- the EU's increasing dependency on third country energy imports (from today's 50 % up to 70 % by 2030)
- the increasing energy demand in developing countries and the ongoing growth of energy consumption in the developed world;

the finite nature of fossil fuels;

the increasing pressure from ongoing climate change with regard to the EU Sustainable Development Strategy;

the EU's aspirations to create more jobs and growth as articulated under the Lisbon Agenda;

the EU's commitment to sustainable development as articulated at Gothenburg;

the impetus at EU and other levels to support a significantly increased use of renewable energies, as documented in the Energy Package presented by the EU Commission in January 2007 and demonstrated by the binding objective of a 20 % renewable share within the EU-wide energy mix agreed by the EU Council on 9 March 2007;

the positive rating of renewable energies in the public eye as reflected in the 2006 and 2007 Eurobarometer surveys on energy issues;

the specific regional dimension of the renewable energies;

**we, the governments of the RENREN regions CY IS NS SH UA WA,**

**believe in the outstanding potential of RES in our regions:**

as indigenous, free, available for ever and environmentally friendly;

to contribute towards the sustainable development of our economies, communities and environment and help us fulfil our duty towards future generations,

to create the framework for new job opportunities, particularly in rural areas and contribute to increasing the export of knowledge and equipment;

as a stimulus for research and innovation in the public and in the private sector;

**see an added value in:**

Exchanging information and experience on RES-related issues at a regional level with a focus on:

- mutual learning platforms in the different fields of renewable energy production;
- developing co-operation between stakeholders, enterprises and administration;
- support for partner search for projects in RES fields;
- support for joint regional cluster activities;
- support for trans-regional activities
- potential trade fair cooperation activities;
- developing consumer acceptance of and interest in cost-effective and sustainable RES-solutions for households, enterprises and industry;
- increasing public awareness in the regions and improving renewable energy behaviour

**The RENREN regions have already made significant strides.**

Examples of results achieved in each region are listed in the annex to this Charter

**Therefore RENREN:**

is committed to promoting energy production from renewable sources and the development of the renewable energy sector;

will work to strengthen the crucial role of the regional level in this respect;

will, at the outset, focus its efforts on these key themes: wind, biomass, geothermal, marine, small-scale hydro, solar thermal energy and photovoltaic technologies;

will develop RES with respect for the principles of sustainable development;

is committed to cooperation between territories as a means to share knowledge, learn lessons from wider experiences and entrench policies and practices that are supporting the developing market for renewable energy technologies;

is committed to encouraging the necessary research, development and innovation activities to create better technologies and services and their availability in the market;

is committed to promoting the topic of RES within the education system to enhance public awareness;

may examine the future possibility of cooperation with regions in neighbouring countries and exchanging best practices in the field of renewable energies;

will offer its cooperation to other bodies such as the European institutions, the national level, regional energy agencies, regional stakeholders and NGOs.

**Signatures (in alphabetical order)**


	<p><b>Cyprus</b></p>	 <p>Constandinos ELIADES          Ambassador, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cyprus to the Kingdom of Belgium</p>
	<p><b>Iceland</b></p>	 <p>Stefán Haukur JÓHANNESSON          Ambassador of the Icelandic Mission to the European Union</p>
	<p><b>North Sweden</b></p>	 <p>Kent ÖGREN          County Council Commissioner of Norbotten</p>
	<p><b>Schleswig-Holstein</b></p>	 <p>Christian VON BOETTICHER          Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Areas of Land Schleswig-Holstein</p>
	<p><b>Upper Austria (Oberösterreich)</b></p>	<p>Upper Austria (see separate declaration)</p>
	<p><b>Wales (Cymru)</b></p>	<p>N. N. For action pending Ministerial Instruction after Welsh Assembly Government elections on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007</p>  <p>Desmond CLIFFORD,          Head of Welsh Assembly, Brussels Office          (Present on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2007)</p>



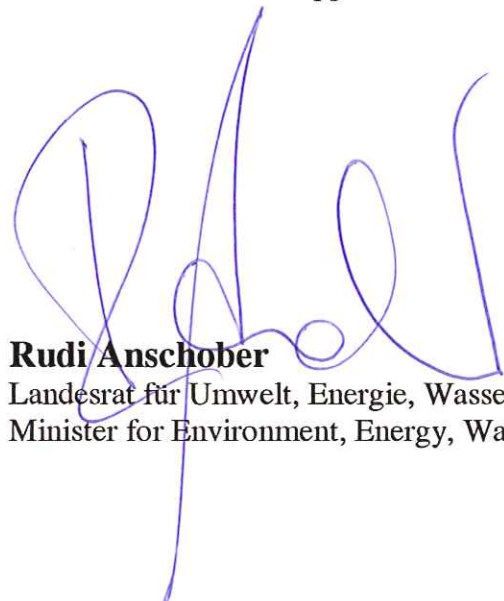
**Region of Upper Austria  
Land Oberösterreich**



The Region of Upper Austria totally agrees to the Charter of RENREN (=Renewable ENergy REgions Network) and declares its participation in this network of excellent RES – Regions and States



**Dr. Josef Pühringer**  
Landeshauptmann von Oberösterreich  
Minister-President of Upper Austria



**Rudi Anschober**  
Landesrat für Umwelt, Energie, Wasser und Konsumentenschutz  
Minister for Environment, Energy, Water and Consumer Protection