



EWEA

THE EUROPEAN WIND ENERGY ASSOCIATION

Short version

**Speech of Arthouros Zervos, President of EWEA,
EWEA 2013 annual event, 4 February 2013, Vienna**

- Check against delivery -

Speech of Arthouros Zervos, President of EWEA, EWEA 2013 annual event, 4 February 2013, Vienna

Ladies and Gentlemen

This is my last speech as EWEA President.

I have been President since 2001. Thank you for that honour.
It has been 12 amazing years.

In 2001 Europe's installed wind energy capacity was 17GW. Today it is over 100 GW.
In 2001 the average new turbine was 1.1MW now it is 2.2 MW .

In 2001 EWEA was a small, association with some 200 members.
Today it has over 700 members.

We achieved that through your efforts

- And stable policies achieved with the help of EWEA

First the EU Electricity Directive in 2001

Then the 2009 climate and energy package: binding renewable energy targets for 2020.
. Yet our industry today faces tough times.

It is under attack because we pose a threat to conventional technologies.
For years wind energy was attacked for being too expensive.
Now it is attacked for being too cheap.

Some people complain wind energy support mechanisms distort the market. According to the OECD there is an average of 16 fossil fuel subsidy measures per OECD country – costing between 286 billion and 467 billion Euros from 2005 to 2011.

Let's talk about phasing out subsidies for mature technologies like onshore wind when fossil fuel and nuclear subsidies are history –when Europe has a functioning electricity market.

We have seen sudden or retroactive changes to support schemes across Europe
This is bad news.

Bad news for the economy, for investment and for jobs.

EWEA is fighting regulatory uncertainty across Europe.

EWEA has worked with industry representatives in Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, Ireland, Romania, Hungary, the UK, Poland, Estonia, Bulgaria, and Greece for regulatory certainty.

The wind industry can be a driver for growth – for jobs and exports - but not if government policies drive away investors.

The European wind market has been stuck at annual installations of around 10GW for the last 3 years. 2012 figures will be close to or above 11GW. 2013 will be lower again. The wind industry is suffering serious job losses, and will suffer more difficulties this year.

But there is also hope. EWEA's Emerging Markets report launched here tomorrow shows the potential for growth in central and eastern Europe.

The European wind industry has world-leading products. It has great companies. It has enterprising innovative people. We must keep our confidence. Keep our eyes on the future, because the future will be wind energy.

To achieve the European Union's 2020 targets, the total installed capacity has to grow from 100 GW today to 213 GW in 2020.

European Governments have committed to substantial growth in wind energy. In the medium and long-term our prospects are very bright.

The European Commission says wind will be THE leading power technology by 2050. I am confident it will be, and perhaps not just in Europe.

We can start by adopting a binding renewable energy target for 2030. A renewable energy target for 2030 will provide stability for today's market. It will facilitate the achievement of the 2020 target by showing investors that renewable energy is a long-term priority.

In a crisis we have to stick together .

Stand united in the European Wind Energy Association.

To get those 2030 targets

To get the grid we need, to get the single market we want

We need a strong EWEA supported by the industry

We have that today and we need it tomorrow.

Have confidence in our industry. The year ahead will be tough

But we have seen crisis before. We WILL emerge stronger and more competitive,

I wish you a great EWEA2013 annual event here in Vienna.