

## Speaking notes WSF Energy Symposium 26 November 2009

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- Is the Wadden Sea region a mayor energy player in Europe?
  - Yes, apparently it is, but
  - There's energy and energy.
  - What kind of player should/could the region be?
- Let's compare the potential of the region (including the EEZ's) with the actual developments:
  - Potential:
    - Large scale wind-farms (but potential problems with cables, shipping, other uses).
    - Large scale solar (if the technology develops further).
    - Building of an energy knowledge base: experiments with wave energy, tidal energy, biogas, geothermal energy, bio-ethanol, fuel cells.
    - Small scale: decentralised electricity generation, local supply.
  - Actual:
    - Gas and oil extraction in the Wadden Sea.
    - New coal-fired plants.
    - New multi-fuel plants.
    - New gas-fired plants.
    - Space reserved for nuclear plant in NL.
    - Large scale wind-farms.
  - Observations:
    - Study shows dramatic increase in use of coal in the region: 1/9<sup>th</sup> now, 2/3d in 2025.
    - Wind expected to produce more in 2020 than expected consumption – so why should we have all these coal-fired plants?
- And what about the people of the area?
  - The Dutch island have ambitious plans for self-sufficiency!
- And what about governments?
  - The energy-security agenda seems to be disconnected from the sustainability agenda. The playing field is now being dominated by commercial enterprises, exploiting the opportunities they have been given by governments through the privatisation of the energy market.
  - There is no vision for the region on the energy issue.
- Conclusion/challenge:
  - The WSF should develop a trilateral sustainable energy agenda, aimed at phasing out the use of fossil fuels, with clear targets and a realistic time-table.
  - Use the potential of the region for this exercise, use local solutions as much as possible.
  - Make more use of smart solutions. Wasting energy (e.g. by using old-fashioned light-bulbs) is just plain stupid.
  - Stop wasting money and start conserving energy.
- Finally:
  - Yes, the Wadden Sea region can be a mayor player. But is should be quality we aim for, not quantity.