

2017 Legislators Forum: Reporting to the Assembly by Ms Kathleen Van Brempt

Mr President, Vice-Presidents, Director-General, distinguished Ministers, Guests, your Excellencies, Colleagues,

I had the real honor to be part of the Legislators Forum yesterday and I am honored to be able to address to you and to give to you a small report back from that meeting.

That meeting started a little like the meeting of today with Mr Thani, Minister of climate and environment, and the Director-General of IRENA, Mr Amin.

There was one word, you said so many things, but there was one word that was so important and that was the start of our meeting yesterday. You said that we are in need of a lot of optimism, and when you hear the impact the UAE is making with regard to climate change and their plans, I can say that our meeting yesterday really started off in an optimistic atmosphere.

Then we went into a lot of very interesting topics such as policy instruments, what we need, feed-in-tariffs, auctions, targets. There was a lot of emphasis on the necessity of auctioning renewable energy, but also the parliamentarians highlighted that feed-in-tariffs remained a very relevant tool.

Regardless of the instruments that you chose, or the combination of the instruments, the public is of vital importance to be able to develop renewable energy.

We also talked about financing, very important, and everybody, there was a broad consensus, everybody stressed the importance of private money to be able to develop renewable energy. It is very important that we take into account the factor of risk; but also the importance of international financial instruments, such as the Green Climate Fund, is also very important to be able to subsidise and to make sure that renewable energy is moving forward.

We also discussed decentralized renewable energy solutions, you know, everything that is happening in our cities, but also in our rural areas. It is very important to take into account daily life of our citizens. It is also important to mainstream renewable energy in other policy areas, not just in the energy department, but to ensure it is taken into account in health issues for example, or in education of course.

I conclude, Mr President, by stressing the importance of the role of IRENA. Throughout all the sessions of the Legislators Forum, all participants expressed their appreciation of IRENA for organizing a meeting such as the Legislators Forum, because that enables parliamentarians, legislators, of different national parliaments, to discuss new ideas, to make sure that we can learn from each other. There is a broad consensus that the Legislators Forum is complementing to the Assembly, and it's very important that



IRENA can effectively continue doing that, and make a very good combination with that, and to make sure we can focus on the different body of renewable energy and expertise of IRENA.

All the different aspects of renewable energy can be, and is of vital importance for the work of the legislators in the different national parliaments.

I want to thank you for organizing that Legislators Forum, and I want to thank you for listening to me, and I really hope that you have a very fruitful and a very sustainable Assembly. Thank you very much.