

SYNTHESIS

Mr. Jacques QUANTIN, Energies et Territoires Développement (France)

(* translated from French)

Marc Jedliczka, Director of HESPUL, has been retained in Germany and asks you to excuse him. I will replace him for this conclusion, and I will try to be brief.

Throughout the day, listening to the various European speakers and to yourselves, we have all been able to observe that local investment, citizen investment in wind turbines is not a utopia but is in fact a reality. In Germany and Denmark, citizen financial participation clearly contributed to the development of this energy system.

The major advantage of local participation - as was often pointed out today - is that it increases social ownership of projects by establishing conditions that are conducive to equitable sharing of the wealth generated. And this significantly improves acceptance of these projects.

In France, opposition to projects is quite common and this new approach to defining investment is worth considering for operators. Jean-Yves Grandidier spoke to me about this again just recently. All operators are faced with conflictual reactions.

Although local participation may be financial - and this was the theme of our conference today - it can also be expressed through a programme of consultation and dialogue throughout the project's development phase.

The vital importance of implementing a plan of pertinent and regular communications was stressed by many speakers today. It is certainly not easy to implement these consultation procedures, but they nevertheless should not be perceived by operators as an extra obligation, but on the contrary as a means to increase the chances of their projects being finalised and to make their investments even safer.

It is also important to pursue the efforts being made to simplify administrative procedures and to adapt, wherever possible, certain technical constraints and obligations currently in place. Another difficult point that was raised is access to the power grid, which is still a real problem for developers, local or otherwise.

Another point that was often raised today is the territorial approach and the implementation of intercommunal wind turbine programmes. The experience in Saint-Agrève and those mentioned by Christophe Roger illustrate that local authorities and intercommunal structures, encouraged by the ADEME, are willing to set up consultation and dialogue on the integration of wind energy projects in their regions.

Although local elected representatives play a major role, numerous other players need to be involved, including the operators. These procedures are described in detail in the ADEME guide entitled "Outil d'insertion sociale et territoriale des éoliennes".

In the same way that these territorial exchanges highlight the interest of local players in the projects, they can also pave the way for local financial involvement.

Whether projects are led by local players or conventional operators, it is vital - Philippe Beutin just reminded us of this - to avoid non-compliance.

If the project is being developed by local players, it is crucial that they call on the services of professionals from the sector. In this case, the risk - which is also run by conventional operators - is failure to obtain the building

permit. Good territorial and local consultation, in which the decentralised State services participate, can considerably reduce this risk.

Generally, conventional operators develop the projects and obtain the permits. As Jean-Yves Grandidier reminded us earlier, they are more likely to turn towards large investors rather than waste their time involving local investors.

The current difficulty experienced by operators in obtaining their permits and operational licences cannot but encourage them to sell up quickly, to make their investment profitable as quickly as possible.

Another difficulty that was raised: the mobilisation of shareholders. Implementing a public issue procedure endorsed by the capital markets Authority would probably be long and complex. Jan Poppe nevertheless pointed out that this is still economically feasible for projects between 10 and 12 million euros. It is also common practise in Germany.

Still on the subject of citizen financial mobilisation, I noted the ADEME's decision to follow the implementation of the *Fonds d'investissement de proximité* (FIP - Proximity Investment Funds) and to consider setting up specialised FIPs with support from large banking groups.

A certain number of possible actions were expressed. The ADEME and the MEDD's suggestion to start up an interministerial working group on local investment that would involve, I suppose, the Ministry of Finance and the Trade Unions, is an interesting idea.

Now I need to conclude. Within the framework of the WELFI programme, today's proceedings and a booklet on European practices in this field will be published on Cd-Rom. They will be forwarded to all participants. Information on local investment in Renewable Energy is also available on www.cler.org/predac/wp1.

To finish, on behalf of all the WELFI partners, I would like to thank you for participating in this conference. I would also like to thank all the HESPUL team and especially Elenn Mouazan, the WELFI project coordinator, without whom this day would not have been possible. Thank you for your attention.