



Regione Toscana

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MORE HYDROGEN IN EUROPE: CLAUDIO MARTINI AND RICCARDO ILLY TALK WITH JEREMY RIFKIN

While the European Commission is today approving the “Energy Package” that exists in some strategic documents on the community energy policy, such as the Directive on Green Energy, the Communication on Fossil Combustibles or the Road Map on Renewable Energies, Regions are talking to **Jeremy Rifkin**, former Nobel prize winner for Economics and writer of the best seller *The European Dream*, about the use of hydrogen as a new type of energy source for the future.

Claudio Martini, President of Tuscany and of the **Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR)** and **Riccardo Ily** President of Friuli-Venezia-Giulia and of the **Assembly of Regions of Europe (ARE)** attended in favor of an European hydrogen economy during a workshop organised this morning at the European Parliament thanks to **Vittorio Prodi** (ELDR-IT), **Claude Turmes** (VERDI-FR) and **Jo Leinen** (PSE DE) with the participation of **Jeremy Rifkin** and **Philippe Busquin** former European Commissioner and MEP (PSE-BE).

According to the Euro-barometer, 60% of European citizens think that research in the field of energy should be a priority of the EU in the coming years and that fossil combustibles should be substituted by renewable energies. Furthermore, the European Commission proposes a new industrial revolution to build an energy economy without coal.

*The European integration started with energy, coal and steel, declared **Claudio Martini** on behalf of the 155 regions of the **CPMR**, because the founders understood that common control of energy would ensure peace in the continent. Today, many Regions, such as Tuscany, are active in reducing the noxious emissions into the atmosphere and they contribute to reaching the objectives of the Kyoto protocol. Tuscany has indeed started many experiments on hydrogen, especially in the fields of urban transportations, manufacturing, the glass industry, recycling, and in small cars for private use. In Tuscany said **Martini** we also have the first multi-energy station in Italy with hydrogen produced by wind energy.*

Jeremy Rifkin thinks that hydrogen is an alternative credible and safe energy. *The renewable energy declared the American writer exists everywhere on earth. If pooled and stored in the form of hydrogen and disseminated across smart power grids, renewable energy has the potential to be shared peer-to-peer in a distributed fashion just as we now share information and communication on the internet. Europe that began with bringing together nations around a common energy policy, could lead the world in this field creating millions of new jobs over the future and contributing to achieving the Lisbon agenda. Hydrogen is not only linked to energy production added Jeremy Rifkin, but it will contribute to solve the problems of global warming, the one in the Middle-East, and the development in the Third World.*

Although Energy Policy is traditionally considered only at national and supra-national levels, the role of Regions cannot be neglected. The Regions, due to their proximity to the citizens are well positioned to promote a sustainable use of energy resources. They can easily inform citizens on current and future energy as well as environmental issues. They can also contribute to the formulation a new energy saving behavior or in some cases by imposing it; to the promotion of using renewable energies in their territories. It is therefore important that Regions are associated with the decisions of the European Union on Energy Policy and that energy is not only considered as an infrastructure for development but also as the element of such development.

For further information, please contact

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