

Vis Venti in the country and abroad

Vis Venti Association for Supporting Wind Energy has been founded in 1999 by a group of people interested in implementing wind technologies in Poland.

From the very beginning the activities of the Association concentrated mainly on lobbying for shaping appropriate legal framework allowing for the development and operation of renewables in Poland. The Association closely watched solutions and systems operating in European countries, trying to use a number of proven and implemented solutions. Currently Vis Venti is a respected and proven partner both for high rank officials in the Ministry of Economy and Labour and Ministry of the Environment, and the representatives of the Energy Regulatory Office and the Polish Power Grids (PSE). The Association members are a number of economic subjects and individuals related to the wind energy market.

Most of Association works focus on preparing and analyzing acts and executive regulations developed by the Ministries, as well as on submitting own proposals of legal provisions concerning wind power. In 2004 our priority was the works on the Act on the amendment of the Energy Law and the Environment Protection Law together with related executive regulations. Moreover, the Association participated in consultations concerning the draft of the Act on renewable energy sources, the draft of amendments to the Transmission Grid Traffic and Maintenance Instruction, and the draft of the document entitled "The energy policy of Poland until 2025".

The Association's trademark is the Wind Energy Forum organized since 2002 – cyclical meetings of representatives of the authorities, system operator and distribution companies with participants of the wind power market. Each consequent meeting is attended by an increasing number of participants, who perceive Forum as an important and interesting place for exchanging opinions between the subjects participating in creation of the State's energy policy and investors interested in the renewables sector. So far the Forum hosted Minister Jacek Piechota, Minister Tomasz Podgajniak, Director of Energy Security Department of the Ministry of Economy and Labour, Zbigniew Kamieński, and representatives of PSE – Operator, Polish Power Exchange and the Energy Regulatory Office.

The Association is also active in the field of RES promotion, participating as an expert in Polish wind power market issues in numerous national and international conferences, seminars and fairs. In the past year representatives of the Association participated in a panel dedicated to European markets during the Global Windpower 2004 conference in Chicago, and presented the situation of Polish wind industry during the "Windenergieplanung in Polen" conference in Berlin, the European Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition in London and the "Wind Energy – International Trade Fair" in Hamburg (conference accompanying the fair).

Vis Venti closely cooperates with European Wind Energy Association, which it is a member since 2003. Being the only Polish organization promoting renewables in the EWEA structures Vis Venti is the European voice of the Polish wind industry. In March this year Presidents of the Association participated in the first meeting of the Global Wind Energy Council – a world forum for supporting wind power. During the meeting Vis Venti was included in the activity of workgroups existing within the EWEA.

2005 plans

The Association's Action Plan for year 2005 is equally ambitious. Together with Polish Power Exchange Vis Venti plans to organize a training seminar in the period directly preceding entering into force of the Act on the amendment of the Energy Law, concerning the new rules

for the energy market (that is in September this year). Detailed rules for operation of the proprietary interest attributed to certificates of origin will be discussed there, along with presentation of new executive ordinances to the Energy Law, which in the nearest future should be approved by the Ministry for Economy and Labour.

Currently the Association intensely works on the proposals for ordinances concerning the detailed extent of the obligation to purchase electric energy and heat from renewable energy sources, concerning the detailed rules for the operation of the power system, and concerning the detailed rules for shaping and calculating tariffs and rules for settlements in turnover of electric energy, consulting their shape with the Energy Security Department.

The Association plans to join other Ministry for the Environment actions, such as developing standards for environmental impact assessments for renewable energy source projects located on areas included in the Natura 2000 programme.

The Association also fights for interpretation of provisions of the Act on local taxes and fees concerning the real estate tax basis for wind farms.

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We would like to invite companies related to wind power industry, investors planning investments on the RES market, developers active on this market, as well as representatives of self – governments and R&D centres!