

nrg4SD



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE ENVIRONMENTAL
CONFERENCE OF THE REGIONS OF
EUROPE- **ENCORE**

AND

THE NETWORK OF REGIONAL
GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT- **nrg4SD**

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THE NETWORK OF REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT- nrg4SD

FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND FOR STRENGTHENING
REGIONAL POLICIES WHICH ENCOURAGE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

BACKGROUND:

The **Environmental Conference of the Regions of Europe**, from now on: ENCORE, is a political platform established in 1993 with the aim of gathering the highest level -below the national level- of political leaders in the field of environment within the **European Union**. The network allows to share and exchange experiences and good practices in environmental matters among the regions of Europe, as well as to exert collective influence on the formulation of EU environmental policy.

The ENCORE network meets biennially at high level **Conferences**, in which not only the political leaders of the European regions participate, but also the highest authorities of EU institutions and organizations. At technical level, the network holds two yearly meetings called **Steering Group** and, at political level, it organizes one yearly meeting called **Steering Committee**, gathering regional environment ministers of ENCORE regions.

By virtue of ENCORE'S Terms of Reference, the network is co-chaired by the highest political leaders of the regions that have hosted the last ENCORE Conference and will host the next ENCORE Conference, respectively. Currently, these **Co-Presidents**, whose tasks are to manage, promote and represent ENCORE at political level, are:

- Ms. Tanja Klip-Martin, Minister for the Environment of the Dutch province of Drenthe (ENCORE period 2010-2014).
- Mr. Jarosław Słoma, Vice-Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship, Minister of the Polish province of Warmia and Mazury (ENCORE period 2008-2012)

In addition, ENCORE network counts with a permanent body, which ensures that work is done on a regular basis. This **General Secretariat** is currently run by the region of Aragon (Spain), appointed to that task by Ministers' consensus at the 2010 ENCORE Conference.

ENCORE network is open to all European regions. Participation in its activities is voluntary and without any fees. At present, the network has **111 member regions**.

The **Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development**, from now on: nrg4SD, was formed by regional governments which attended the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), with the aim of promoting understanding, collaboration and partnerships in sustainable development between Northern and Southern regions.

Nrg4SD was legally registered in Belgium in 2004 as an international non-profit-making association and was accredited as observer to the United Nations System.

One of the network's main goals is to achieve greater international recognition of the importance of the contribution which regions make to sustainable development.

Nrg4SD actively participates as an observer in the processes of the United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change and collaborates with UN organizations like UNEP or UNDP.

Nrg4SD holds **Conferences** biannually and works thanks to its **General Assembly** -that gathers annually- and its **Steering Committee** -which gathers twice a year. A Steering Committee meeting always coincides in time and place with UNFCCC-COP, while the other meeting coincides in time and place with the Conference and the General Assembly.

Nrg4SD network is currently **chaired** by:

- Mr. Lluís Recoder i Miralles, Northern Co-Chair, Regional Minister of Territory and Sustainability of the Government of Catalonia (Spain)
- Mr. Bruno Covas, Southern Co-Chair, Secretary of State for the Environment of the Government of São Paulo (Brazil).

and it also has a **Secretariat**.

Nrg4SD is a network which is open to regions worldwide and its members pay a yearly fee. At present, the network has **54 member regions**.

PARTIES:

Of the first part, Ms. Tanja Klip-Martin and Mr. Jarosław Słoma, as Co-Presidents of the ENCORE network.

Of the second part, Mr. Lluís Recoder i Miralles, as Northern Co-Chair of the nrg4SD network.

HAVING IN MIND THAT:

Both networks consist of regions and seek **international recognition** of the contribution and importance of **regional governments** with regard to environment and sustainable development.

Both networks work in the field of **environment and sustainable development**.

Some **regions** are a member of **both networks** at the same time.

It is necessary to **join forces** and avoid duplicity of efforts.

The **voice of the regions will be heard louder** if the networks commit themselves to coordinate their efforts in the field of environment and sustainable development as much as possible.

IT WAS AGREED:

To explore possibilities of collaboration between both networks, which could result in the following actions:

- To share **general information**, as well as to exchange **experiences and good practices** in the field of environment and sustainable development.
- To give mutual support during **international events and forums**, organized by both the European Union and the United Nations, and by other international organizations working in the networks' field of activity.
- To participate in the **events in which the other network participates or which is organized by the other network**.
- To establish a **regular contact** between the networks, so that they are duly coordinated and they can maximize their efforts.
- To **identify areas of collaboration or projects** which could be jointly carried out and from which both would benefit.

and

IT WAS PROPOSED TO COLLABORATE IN THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC AREAS:

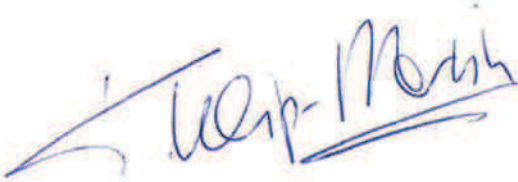
- Cooperation between the ENCORE Working Group on Climate Change and Renewable Energies and the nrg4SD Financing Climate Action in Regions Working Group.
- Cooperation between the ENCORE and nrg4SD Working Groups on Biodiversity.

That this MoU would not lead to any financial obligations.

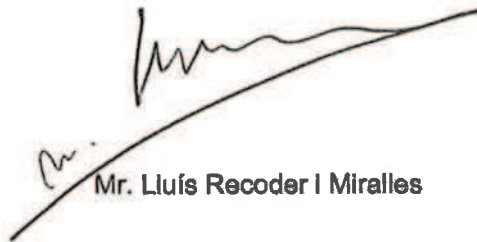
All the above stated without dismissing the possibility that other areas of common interest could be identified within the framework of cooperation and that those could be expanded.

FOR ENCORE NETWORK

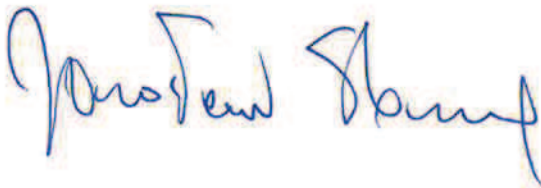
FOR nrg4SD NETWORK



Ms. Tanja Klip-Martin



Mr. Lluís Recoder I Miralles



Mr. Jarosław Stoma