



2006-12-01  
Umeå

Input to the 4th structured dialogue with Commission president José Manuel Barroso  
**“The Commission’s legislative and work programme 2007”**

As we all know, Europe has to find alternatives to its current dependence on fossil fuels. One alternative of special interest in Northern Europe is bio fuel based on forest. Together with organic waste and agricultural crops biomass might be a strong component in the mix of energy that will be needed rather soon. But still to reduce the energy consumption is the first option. To use sea freight will be one way to achieve this which will be possible when integrated transport networks and sea infrastructure are developed.

Some necessary steps to use biomass as an important energy provider will be:

- The forest must grow faster and be adjusted to the different needs. Innovations developed out of biotechnology and plant science must be given high priority.
- To get best possible energy effect of the biomass full scale pilot production facilities will be needed.
- Of course the process from the single tree to filling up the car at the gas station must be harmless to the environment. For example, new harvesters must come. Further, the distribution must find new ways and the urban planning will have to consider the new energy situation.

That will in our opinion lead to three requests based on the objects for this dialogue:

1. The European Commission has proposed the establishment of a European Institute of Technology (EIT). When approved, one of the six EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities should focus on the development of biomass as energy source and the use of plant science and other technologies to improve the outcome.
2. Production and distribution will need reliable and sustainable transport systems. The UBC cities see maritime transport as a key development factor, and therefore strongly support the development of transport corridor initiatives as Motorways of the Sea.
3. We would also like discuss security in a broader perspective. All energy production plants and distribution systems will be vulnerable to attacks of different kinds. Terrorism is one threat, biological diseases might be another. We welcome the upcoming EU efforts on security, and will by this especially emphasize the importance of efforts to fight biological and chemical threats.

Some of the key issues for prosperity are a society with strong economy, a good supply of energy resources and of course that it is safe and sustainable.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marie-Louise Rönnmark'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Marie-Louise Rönnmark  
1 st Vice President of The Union of the Baltic Cities  
Mayor of The City of Umeå.