



ARH
NORTE

Administração da
Região Hidrográfica
do Norte I.P.

First Roundtable: Water and Energy- The dilemmas, costs and benefits

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30 September 2011



Key issue

- This first round table dealt with key and controversial issue between water and energy and dilemmas between necessity to assure:
 - Necessity to reach the 20% of renewable energy by 2020
 - Mitigating its negative impacts on the biodiversity and aquatic environment

Key information and key outcomes

- Renewable energy is not always clean energy and Environmental issues are not restricted to climate change: The high rate loss of biodiversity, for example, is a worrying issue.
- Opposition between maximum productivity and preservation of the aquatic environment.
- Opposition between hydropower and irrigation.
- Possibility of improving the efficiency of the old existing hydropower plants and in the same time reduce their impact on aquatic environment (win-win strategy)
- Flexibility of the hydro-energy: enables to sell the electricity at best price.
- A lot of projects are being implemented to promote biodiversity in the European Union (RESTORE, strategy ConResVal)

General Conclusion of the round table

- Optimum to be found between climate change mitigating (production of carbon free energy) and protection of biodiversity/aquatic ecosystem preservation.
- Cooperation needed between upstream and downstream countries.