

Citizens' Energy Forum 2012

Mini-Testimonial

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The situation in Germany

- Energiewende: nuclear phase-out until 2022
 - Elections in 2013 with energy as one of the top issues
 - Electricity prices will increase at least 10-15% in 2013
- Vulnerable consumers and social issues have to be taken into account

Expectations

1. The Forum is a possibility to make EU policy makers, industry and regulators understand our point of view;

Experiences



The contact to the national regulator is – in the case of Germany – already very good;



Industry representatives seem to understand the Forum as a means to influence consumer organizations;



There is little transparency on how policy makers take-up our ideas;

Expectations

2. The Forum is a possibility to influence the agenda-setting process of the European Commission;

Experiences



We welcome the changes announced for this year;



Consumer Organizations only react to the agenda, but cannot be sure that there is room to highlight other important issues;



Pre-written conclusions lead to inflexibility: no room for interaction;



There is too little continuity about how our point of view is taken-up during the year;

- The last two years offered only very little benefits to us
 - BEUC is our association and should be the coordinator from consumer side
- If it wasn't for the changes in the structure of the Forum, vzbv would not participate this year

Recommendations

We welcome the new initiatives of this year's Forum and are happy to continue this momentum. Our additional recommendations are:

- Greater flexibility in traditional consultation procedures to facilitate consumer participation
- Regular engagement between NRAS and national consumers associations to build capacity
- Widening the scope of the Forum to cover new market challenges, such as affordability and energy efficiency
- Bringing in consumer relevant discussions from the Madrid and Florence Forums to London
- Increased input to the Forum on developments in all national markets and further discussions on the potential of the Mini-Forums
- Wider participation to welcome other stakeholders (MEPs, local authorities, providers of new services).

Thank you

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