

## 1 – Background to the IMAGINE initiative

“IMAGINE” is an initiative of Energie-Cités, aiming to help communities better prepare the energy future of their territories.

Evolution of the energy context on the one hand (persistent upward trend in energy prices and scarcity of fossil resources) and that of the climatic context (increasing temperatures) on the other, are going to induce us to radically modify- and as of now- our way of dealing with the development of our territories.

- Issues relating to **climate change and energy resources** are closely linked and will in future take on dimensions which are completely unpredictable today
- Our current development model **is not viable** and the parts of the world which have been excluded from it now also want their share
- We, the so-called industrialised countries, will have to reduce **our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions a factor 4 by 2050**, which involves reducing our energy consumption a factor 3
- This will only be possible if somewhat fundamental changes are implemented. It will also require the **widespread implementation of existing solutions**, even when these are today at a stage of development that is still marginal.

We need to **imagine a future energy model** that is compatible with what the planet can cope with and reduce the **energy vulnerability** of the territories and their habitants

The IMAGINE initiative is an ambitious, long-term initiative. It combines foresight reflection with action in the field and will give rise to multiple and complementary actions: exhibitions, meetings, a European campaign, etc.

Dealing with energy in a territory has to do with town planning, economics, technologies, the environment, cultural aspects, societal organisation etc. It involves the whole of society in an intergenerational way, including elected representatives, technicians, philosophers, artists, energy specialists etc. This is why this initiative aims to mix people from all walks of life, and not just the traditional actors of the energy sector or specialists in territorial management.

## 2 – The participants

This seminar will bring together a limited **number of participants (37) from 13 countries**, the participants having a variety of personal and professional backgrounds (see attached list of participants with their specialities). The choices were made on the basis of such diversity.

This event is the first of a long series. It will therefore serve as a test. Energie-Cités relies on the constructive spirit of the participants to remedy what can be improved.

## 3 – The venue of the seminar

The seminar will take place at the **Royal Salt Works of Arc & Senans (FR)**, ([www.salineroyale.com/](http://www.salineroyale.com/)), a UNESCO World Heritage site whose history was closely linked to energy, from its beginnings until its demise.

The Royal Salt Works is a symbolic site and a place of practical utopia. It is therefore a highly suitable venue for our exchanges.

The place has been made available to us free of charge by the *Conseil Général du Doubs* (Doubs County Council).

## 4 – The objectives of the seminar

The seminar you will attend is the first practical action of the IMAGINE initiative. An exhibition will be inaugurated on the same occasion.

It aims to:

- Create a founding foresight-oriented event for the IMAGINE initiative
- Produce preliminary ideas and proposals
- Test a new format for the organisation of meetings and define working methods for the IMAGINE initiative
- Set up a lasting core of actors from a variety of backgrounds capable of enriching the IMAGINE experience

Proceedings will be published.

## 5 – The seminar format

The seminar will take place over two days (Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup>). A conference on “energy futures” will be organised on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> in the evening, along with the inauguration of the IMAGINE exhibition.

The seminar includes 7 sessions: 5 thematic sessions (duration: 1.45) + the opening (duration: 1.30) and closing sessions (duration: 2.00). Information on the content of the various sessions is given in the enclosed programme.

Participants will attend all 7 sessions. Each session will bring the 41 participants together around a square-shaped table (there will be no separate working groups, except for the closing session). Around fifty “spectators” will also be present in the same room but they will be outside the group of participants.

**The opening session will aim to:**

- Introduce the participants
- Present the IMAGINE initiative and the objectives of the seminar
- Collect the first reactions and suggestions from the participants.

**The objectives of the (5) thematic sessions** is to initiate foresight reflection on the theme: “Imagining energy for the future of our communities”.

The expression of certainties (that of the technicians or of the policymakers) and the expression of ideologies, whether they be green, pink, black or blue will not, therefore, be encouraged.

Each theme session will aim to:

- Investigate the issue in hand from a specific angle (technological, social, etc.)
- Provide material that will be used as a basis for future IMAGINE works
- Highlight uncertainties or further questions
- Identify key points
- Structure collective thought.

**The closing session** will aim to:

- Evaluate the seminar, both in terms of the content and of the format
- Make proposals regarding the continuation of our work and future IMAGINE seminars

## **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2006**

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Co-ordinator: Christian Vassie (GB), York City Council

Method: Jean Michel (FR), Consultant

**8.30 am – 8.45 am** Coffee

**8.45 am – 10.15 am**

**Opening session: the IMAGINE initiative and the objectives of the seminar**

### Objectives:

- To present the IMAGINE initiative as well as the objectives of the seminar
- To enable participants to introduce themselves
- To collect the first reactions and suggestions from the participants
- To create a co-operative atmosphere and share a common language

Each participant will be invited to express his/her motives and main expectations concerning the objectives of the seminar.

### Introducer

G rard Magnin, Energie-Cit s

**10.15 am – 10.45 am** Break

**10.45 am – 12.30 am**

**Session 1: What would be the realities of implementing the 2,000 Watt society in our communities?**

*This session aims at setting the scene of the future society we should be heading towards if we want to comply with the climatic and energy constraints of a sustainable world.*

*The idea for a 2,000 W society came from a challenge: how can sustainable development issues be represented in one figure?*

*17,500 kWh per year is the average energy consumption per capita worldwide, which corresponds to a continuous demand of 2,000 watts. This figure varies greatly between industrialised countries and developing countries.*

*The vision of the 2,000 watt society re-establishes a balance between these countries while ensuring a fair standard of living to all the inhabitants on the planet.*

*How can this vision be transformed into practical objectives for our communities?*

*Will it be possible to escape the 2,000 W society? What if the 2,000 W society was an excellent opportunity to rethink our societies?*

*What changes should be introduced in urban development and mobility projects in order to make them compatible with the above objectives? Are the necessary technologies already available?*

### Objectives:

- To introduce the concept and what it actually involves in terms of technology, societal changes, lifestyles, etc.
- To discuss the concept taking local development examples
- To elicit key points

### Introducer

Roland Stulz (CH), Architect, Novatlantis

### Panellists

- Kathrin Braun (EU), European Co-ordinator, European Renewable Energy Council - EREC
- Fabrice Decellas (FR), EDF
- Jean-Marc Revaz (CH), Sinergy Infrastructure S.A
- Jun Li (China), Institut for the Sustainable Development and for International Affairs - IDDRI
- Francis Pereira (FR), Philips Lighting

**Rapporteur**

Manfred Görg (DE), ProKlima Hannover

**12.30 am – 1.45 pm** Lunch

**1.45 – 3.30 pm**

**Session 2: Does the Brundtland principle take intergenerational justice seriously?**

*The intergenerational dimension is a principal element in the reflection on sustainable development, even when this involves issues relating to climate change and energy resources. This concept will be used as a basis for the debates at the IMAGINE seminar.*

*The “Brundtland” principle stipulates that “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. It is regularly referred to in official statements, especially in the conclusion, thus triggering off the final expected applause! It seems to naturally embody a principle of equal opportunities and justice.*

*However, speakers are much less voluble when it comes to explaining the intuitions of justice underlying such expressions.*

*Working from the definition of sustainable development in the Brundtland report, we will try to show its limits and propose alternatives.*

*Finally, we will try to identify what the translating of such theories into facts involves, in an urban setting for example*

**Objectives:**

- To introduce the issues and the arguments relating to possible contradictions between equal opportunities and sustainability
- To discuss the relevance of the arguments in relation to energy and climatic issues in a territorial approach

**Introducer**

Alex Gosseries (BE), Philosopher, Catholic University of Louvain

**Panellists**

- Estela Pereira (PT), Eco-Schools international
- Massimo Sardi (CH), Institut ERASM
- Michel Mousel (FR), “4D” Association
- Susann Scherbarth (DE), Bundjugend, Youth Alliance of Future Energy

**Rapporteur**

Hubert David, European Mineral Wool Manufacturers Association Insulation - Eurima

### **3.30 – 5.15 pm**

#### **Session 3: Is climate change mitigation an asset for our territories?**

*Evolution of the energy context and climate change are rapidly forcing us to rethink our society model by moving towards another economic growth; one which produces less greenhouse gas and is more frugal with energy.*

*Such an orientation could result in a reduction in the flow of exchanges between territories, notably on a global scale. This could, in turn, promote development, based more on the actual capacities of the territories and develop the advantage of “co-operation” between territories (in reference to Ricardo’s “comparative” advantages which lead territories to specialise).*

*We, therefore, have to give more attention to local economic development policies. The local economy, drawing its resources from the local creation and consumption of wealth, also enables territories to be developed, jobs to be created and current climate risks to be reduced because of the decrease in the flow.*

*Regional planning in its widest sense would, therefore, seem to be a means of reducing the territories’ vulnerability, and guaranteeing a certain economic efficiency in a new growth paradigm.*

*And is it not true that the most efficient and attractive territories in the future will be those which are the most frugal with energy?*

*Does this not include an emerging factor of:*

- *new territorial cohesion?*
- *a form of response to globalisation?*
- *citizens reclaiming responsibilities towards energy which had been delegated to others?*

*Do we really want this kind of growth?*

#### **Objectives:**

- To present major conceptual options
- To discuss their relevance / limits / social acceptance
- To elicit key points

#### **Introducer**

Gilles Pennequin (FR), Responsible for Sustainable Development, Inter-ministerial delegation for regional planning and competitiveness

#### **Panellists**

- Eleanor Dodd (GB), The Woodcraft Folk
- Ada Amon (HU), Energia Klub
- Brigitte Dufour-Fallot (CH), Bio-Eco
- Antoinette Gillet (FR), Effinergie

#### **Rapporteur**

Paul Fleming (GB), DeMontfort University, Leicester

### **5.15 pm – 6.00 pm**

Visit of the Saline Royale (in French and English)

#### **From 6.00 pm**

Inauguration of the exhibition “Beacon regions, cities, neighbourhoods...”

**Conference** “World energy efficiency for energy security and a sustainable development” from Bernard Laponche, president of EE21

#### **Official speeches**

#### **Cocktail**

## **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

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**8.45 am – 10.30 am**

### **Session 4: What lessons can we draw from radical practices that explore new avenues?**

*It is crucial for our foresight reflection to be connected to real life practices.*

*Is it really possible to reorient deep rooted trends?*

*By accompanying or anticipating technological or legislative initiatives, some municipalities have been able to change course and to reduce their energy use while getting away from fossil energy.*

*Together with a number of Swedish towns and cities, Växjö initiated the “zero fossil fuels” as their 2020 objective; a target which has been adopted by the Swedish government for 2050.*

*Une exposition présentant une quinzaine d'exemple de cités européennes sera inaugurée en marge du séminaire le 23 novembre.*

*Why have these municipalities decided to introduce such initiatives? What made them take action?*

*What commitments have been made? By who? With whom? How?*

*What is the impact of such policies on public awareness/participation?*

*What are the quantitative and qualitative results? What projects/key decisions could/should be duplicated on a wider basis?*

#### Objectives:

- to present examples, especially from the angle of policy decision making and implementation
- to discuss their relevance / limits in terms of impact on energy use, reproducibility and changes of energy culture
- to elicit key points

#### Introducer

Bo Frank (SE), Växjö

#### Panellists

- Camille Bierens de Haan (CH), Eco-Attitude
- Rupert George (GB), eGov monitor
- Michel Gioria (FR), French National Energy Agency - ADEME
- Pim Koegler (NL), Groningen Province
- Britta Freitag (DE), European Climate Alliance

#### Rapporteur

Zdravko Genchev (BU), EnEffect/EcoEnergy

**10.30 – 11.00 am**      Break

**11.00 am – 12.45 am**

## **Session 5: What method should be used to imagine the energy future of our communities?**

*The world is changing and history is being made faster and faster. We can imagine that the energy future of our communities will not be the simple continuation of past trends.*

*Heading for a world that is, strictly speaking, unsustainable, is like going into a dead end. Turning towards a sustainable one is not an option but an obligation.*

*But how can we do so when most of the decisions we make come from the same old- although improved- list? When our mentalities prevent us from being more lucid? How can we change our decision-making process to avoid choices that will definitely appear unsustainable in 2030 when we look back at our past?*

*What about considering the present from the world in 2030, the world of the generation which does not yet exist, looking at our current bad practices and opening up pathways towards a sustainable energy future?*

*The presentation of a new method “Backcasting the future” will open the debate.*

### Objectives:

- To present a potential method
- To discuss its relevance and consider other methods
- To elicit key points

### Introducer

David Waldron (CAN), Blekinge Institute of Technology Sweden

### Panellists

- Pedro Ballesteros Torres, Administrator, European Commission
- Bernard Kudlak (FR), Cirque Plume
- Paul-Marie Boulanger (FR), Institut for the Sustainable Development
- Jean-Jacques Girardot (FR), Université de Franche-Comté
- Ilaria de Altin (EU), ICLEI

### Rapporteur

Grégoire Clerfayt (BE), Bruxelles-Capitale Region-Minister of Environment & Energy

**12.30 am – 2.15 pm** Lunch

**2.15 pm – 4.15 pm**

## **Closing session: what are the next steps?**

**The closing session** will aim to:

- Evaluate the outcome of the seminar, both in terms of the format and the content as opposed to the expectations expressed in the preparatory documents and the opening session
- To highlight the questions that were not – or were insufficiently dealt with
- To make proposals regarding the continuation of our work and future IMAGINE seminars

### Co-ordinator

Bernard Laponche (FR), President of EE21, United Nations - Economic Commission for Europe