

PRESS RELEASE

**MINISTERS AT CSD YET TO PROVIDE POLITICAL IMPETUS FOR
WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT TOWARDS ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND
RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Early observation of the speeches by various Ministers attending the current session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) at the UN shows more support for the continued reliance on fossil fuels and nuclear energy rather than the urgent need to move decisively in the direction of energy efficiency (EE) and Renewable Energy (RE). All three representatives of CURES who spoke at the Press Conference at the UN shared this common observation.

Ms. Salimata Wade, from Senegal, said "I would have thought that the Ministers would use this opportunity of the High Level Segment to show the world, especially African nations, a new way for providing much needed energy services for our people. Affordable and innovative renewable energy options are what we need – not expensive and environmentally problematic conventional energy options. Equitable access in both rural and urban areas, also regarding the gender, must be considered a prerequisite for sustainable development.

Mr. Gurmit Singh, from Malaysia, felt that the obsession with energy security and reliance on conventional energy forms by Ministers was a major disappointment. "Much as we come to find Ministerial meetings are full of bland re-statements of old positions, we had hoped that at least the Ministers from Asia would have been given strong impetus for the EE and RE path. Perhaps they will still deliver before the meeting ends", he added.

Mr. Roque Pedace, from Argentina, opined "The world needs a major shift away from fossil fuels, even so-called advanced fossil fuel technologies, and nuclear energy. The Ministers must size on some of the positive ideas that have been presented during the current CSD meeting and give them their strong support." He strongly felt that there was an urgent need to ensure that CSD14 and 15 gave new directions for the worldwide implementation of EE and RE.

CURES, as a grouping of 250 NGOs worldwide committed to EE and RE, has been actively involved in the current CSD discussions.

11 May 2006
UN Hqrs.

For follow-up, pl. contact Gerald Knauf at +491741694785 or Gerald@forumue.de