Stakeholder involvement in Low-carbon strategies – an introduction

EUSEW - Brussels – 14/04/2011

Stéphane La Branche – Institute of political studies, Grenoble
Meike Fink – Climat Action Network France
Importance of stakeholder involvement

**Political & social importance:**
- A transition of the energy system needs to be supported by the whole society
- Scenarios are long term strategies which demand short term decisions to avoid long term negative impacts

**Co-production of knowledge between researchers, politicians and stakeholders leading to increased legitimacy of the decisions:**
- Add social, political expertise to the technical and economic hypothesis
- Evaluate the social acceptance of the scenarios – why?
- Create ownership of the scenarios among the stakeholders
- Find out main cleavages and common ground and solutions
- Know more about obstacles and factors for inacceptability
Definition stakeholder

• IPPC (2007): « A person or an organisation that has a legitimate interest in a project or entity, or would be affected by a particular action or policy. »

• World Bank (2008): « Any entity with a declared or conceivable interest or stake in a policy concern. »

• Van de Kerckhof (2006): « Actors from society who have an interest (a stake) in a specific policy issue. »

→ The definition of stakeholders depends on the objective of the stakeholder involvement
An unresolved dilemma: Representativeness and competence

• **Representativeness (Fairness):** equal chance ‘to be heard’ and to exercise influence

→ An interactive process is considered to be fair if the group of participants is representative of the total population of stakeholders

→ Large deliberative forums
An unresolved dilemma: Representativeness and competence

- **Competence** - extent to which participants in interactive policy-processes are able to generate effective policy-outcomes, where stakeholders agree upon

- Only those stakeholders who are able to judge a successful policy implementation should be selected to participate => skilled actors & small group
Does the principle of competence prevail?

→ More deliberation can create more inequalities

→ Citizens and stakeholders do not want to be a part of just a ritual

The relationship between input and output legitimacy shows up; stakeholders want to reach their goals (output legitimacy) and are therefore willing to sacrifice some democratic values

Mijke Boedeltje & Juul Cornips (2007)
Different forms of stakeholder involvement

- Representativeness

+ Strength of implication

- Regulatory negotiation
- Delphi process
- Focus groups
- Consultative groups
- Scenario workshop
- Public hearings
- Referendum

+ Consensus conferences
+ Citizens’ juries
+ Round tables
Stakeholder involvement in ENCI-LowCarb

**Stakeholder involvement in scenario creation is particularly challenging:**

- Macro-economic models, limits of the models
- Different levels of decisions: technical and political
- Impact on assumptions
- Interconnections
- External contexts
- Polarizing issues
Selection of stakeholders

- Keep Satisfied
- Manage Closely
- Monitor (Minimum Effort)
- Keep Informed
A scenario: a goal, an outline, a story...

1. Respect of constraints: reduction objective

2. Defining possible pathways through consistent realistic scenarios: experts

3. Writing the story in the real world: stakeholders
Thank you for your attention!
Questions?

Contacts:
meike@rac-f.org
stephane.labranche@iep-grenoble.fr