



Mémorandum of Understanding « The Under2MoU »

I. Aquitaine Region

Aquitaine is a southwestern coastal region of France. It covers an area of 41 300km² and has a population of 3,300,000 inhabitants.

The Aquitaine Region is a local authority led by the Aquitaine Regional Council, Board composed of members elected by the Aquitaine citizens.

Its core competencies are economic development and innovation, employment, training and regional planning.

From the 1st of January 2016, Aquitaine and its two neighboring regions, Limousin and Poitou- Charentes, will be united in the same local authority.

II. Objectives of the Aquitaine territory in terms of emission reduction

Aquitaine region aims to address environmental challenges and to contribute to the economic success of the region.

The 'Regional Plan for Climate, Air and Energy' was approved by the national State and the Aquitaine Region in November 15, 2012. It is a shared strategic document, which was set up after a strong participation of citizens. Now, stakeholders in Aquitaine (cities, public authorities, companies) have at their disposal a useful framework that presents the regional objectives in terms of energy efficiency, development of renewable energy and improvement in air quality.

The objectives set by the least ambitious scenario of the Aquitaine framework are:

- a reduction of 28.5 % of final energy consumption by 2020 compared to 2008,
- a production of renewable energy equivalent to 25% of the final energy consumption in 2020
- a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 compared to 1990,
- a reduction of air pollutants, including nitrogen oxides and suspended particles.

III. Initiatives of the Aquitaine Region for mitigation and adaptation to climate change

Within the framework of its legal competencies, the Aquitaine Region has been implementing the following actions :

1) Strengthening energy efficiency in buildings, and positive energy buildings :

- The Region, being responsible for building public high schools, focuses on their energy consumption and also builds positive energy schools, like the one, called 'Václav Havel high school' inaugurated in 2012, which has 2500 m² of photovoltaic panels, wood heating and uses no fossil energy,
- The Aquitaine Region has contributed to the establishment of the Institute for Energy Transition (INEF4), which is a R&D institute dedicated to the rehabilitation and sustainable construction. It was officially launched in July 2014. with financial support from the Aquitaine Region and the national State. This Institute is planning to commit 28 million euros over five years through a public / private model. Thanks to its Research Innovation Development, demonstration, technology transfer and spin-off, it helps all stakeholders in the building industry and its customers, to reduce greenhouse gas.

2) Developing less polluting ways of transport

In the field of transport and infrastructure, the regional policy addresses the challenges in two major directions. Firstly, the development of the modal shift, which is the transport of passengers and goods by train and maritime transport. The other one consists of encouraging public transport.

3) Increasing renewable energy and better energy efficiency in companies

The Aquitaine Region supports industries and renewable energy projects on its territory. It encourages self-consumption of solar energy, methanisation and marine renewable energy, through calls for proposals.

Moreover, a regional Investment Fund in renewable energy, bringing together public and private fundings, will be in place early 2016 to support new projects.

Finally, the Region is implementing a support mechanism to foster energy efficiency of industrial buildings.

4) Acting in climate change adaptation

In 2013, at the request of the Aquitaine Region, a scientific committee led by Professor Hervé le Treut, one of the GIEC's members, has produced the report "Planning for Action: The impacts of climate change in Aquitaine." First scientific study of this magnitude on the scale of a region, it shows the impact of climate change in Aquitaine in 2050, through different components : economy, health, natural environment, ...

This committee is pursuing its work in order to give recommendations to the regional authority.

Based on this study, Aquitaine Region has already begun to design new public policies in several fields, in particular agriculture, forestry, coastal management.
