



COMPOSE PLUS CONFERENCE

Conference – Salini Resort, Salini Bay, Malta

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I would like to thank you for your invitation to address this conference today, and I am glad that INSULEUR has contributed actively as a partner. The importance of this project for islands, lies in the fact that its objective is to increase the share of renewable energy sources in the energy mix of rural and insular areas. Renewable energy sources play an important part for islands. Islands, especially dependent islands are generally the most fragile in terms of dependency on the generation of energy from outside sources. Renewable energy sources can make islands fully independent in terms of energy generation.

I just have come from a conference currently being held in Gozo whereby all stakeholders are meeting to see which are the best solutions for the island of Gozo to make it more sustainable, not only on energy but also on other areas such as mobility, and agriculture. Nonetheless energy generation because of its importance remains a critical issue. The Gozo Business Chamber, of which I am the President, has been a key enabler in this discussion, and I am happy that INSULEUR is also acting as a catalyst in this direction.

Technologies are evolving rapidly, and I think that as islands we need to keep track of new technologies that are constantly developing. Islands can act as test beds of these type of technologies. But apart of this, the private sector can show the way, by being itself the first to implement technologies which can make their enterprises more sustainable. The private sector on islands can acts as innovators. However, prior to this we need to create awareness about the private sector. And in this direction I am happy about the involvement of INSULEUR for the private sector to act as catalysts of change in increasing the share of renewable energy resources on islands. From a policy perspective islands also need to be provided with the right framework so as to create the right environment to target energy “independence” based on renewable energy resources.

The present situation we are living in is showing how much Europe is dependent on energy generation on outside sources, which makes it more vulnerable to external shocks. Islands because of their geographical situation are more fragile. This situation can be avoided.

To this end I wish you all the best for this conference today and I augur you all a fruitful discussion.
