

...Open Forum....

Pascal CANFIN – CEO of WWF France

About the main trends and developments in the energy transition of territories and the shifts under way.



« Find the ways to achieve a fair transition that is desirable and beneficial to everyone »

“Do we have to play the social issues off against the environmental issues? If this were the case, we would be in great difficulty for deep down we would find it impossible to decide between the two. The priority therefore is to analyze what is needed for the transition, to measure not only the positive effects of it on employment, on the fight against inequalities and on purchasing power, but also the negative effects if any on the environment and to take the corrective measures that are called for. It is animated by such a goal that we need to review some of the major issues. Here I will concentrate on employment.

We have loss count of the studies demonstrating that more environment means more jobs. Ademe has shown for France that the transition could create up to 900,000 net jobs. In other words, not going ahead with the transition means sacrificing the creation of 900,000 jobs! Can France allow this? According to the International Organization, there will be 60,000 million extra jobs by 2030 in a world fighting against climate change. Why these positive results? in particular because the transition replaces energy with human work. For example, the insulating of a building creates more jobs than any form of energy used to heat it; and organic farming needs twice as much manpower for the same output as conventional farming as it uses fewer chemical inputs. A greener economy is a more job-intensive economy. And that is very good news!

This being said, some jobs are nevertheless threatened by the transition. And in some regions, in some labour pools, we see first of all the threats before measuring the opportunities. This is why WWF proposes the setting in place of an "ecological transition contract" enabling the problem to be dealt with head on and the management of the necessary developments while at the same time securing the careers of the employees concerned. If we had had this type of contract it would have been doubtless easier to

manage the recent tensions that arose following the decision to base the carbon price on the electricity produced from coal – a decision deferred despite being announced, in particular due to the failure to have anticipated the social consequences for the several hundred or so people concerned.

As Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of the CSI, so beautifully put it, "there are no jobs on a dead planet". WWF works with businesses, unions and local elected representatives to create a consensus on these matters. It is this consensus that enables the right policies to be conducted over the long term without incomprehensible toing and froing for the investors and the citizens alike. Let us set the course and negotiate the packages of measures that will enable full use to be made of the opportunities offered by the transition, the sharing of the benefits and the reducing of the negative effects to a minimum. We will then have found the ways to achieve a fair transition that is desirable and beneficial to everyone.””

[See you at the 2017 European Energy Transition Conference in Bordeaux, on 24 January next at 10.45 a.m.,](#) to attend the plenary session « *A transition for all involving everyone* », chaired by **Pascal CANFIN**.

Pour à plus d'informations propos de WWF : <http://bit.ly/2hnCqxO>

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