

Open Forum

By Bruno Lechevin, Chairman of ADEME



« With the ambition of leading us to a society making thriftier use of its resources and making therefore less impact on the climate, energy transition is above all a great opportunity for the regions. It is therefore even, I believe, the opportunity to put their assets in the limelight once more.

It is in fact at the regional and local level that the town planning, environment, transport and housing policies combine together and interact with the concerns for health, quality of life, jobs, attractiveness etc... enabling veritable cross-cutting approaches in a logic of sustainable development. The region or local area also appears to us as a place of economic coherence in which, for example, ambitious housing renovation works will enable the maintaining and even the creating of local jobs and the generation of gains in purchasing power for the households thanks to the energy savings generated - so many means that can be reinjected into the local economy. And this is also an element of social coherence: the region or local area constitutes the right level of proximity for seeking the support of the populations and the economic players and supporting the profound changes in behavior required for new lifestyles and activities.

But to take their full place in the energy transition, the local authorities must re-appropriate their competences and their abilities to manage the flows and sustainably develop their areas. This involves in particular improving energy governance. It will mean succeeding in better combining the assets of our centralized system with the regional and local dynamics. I do not believe for one moment that greater cooperation and further sharing of decisions between the central and the local levels would cause our French model to explode or bring our fundamentals such as fair equalization into question. Simply, it would enable the local dynamics to be put to better effect, by enhancing the potentials of everyone and being able to concentrate the efforts on the specific difficulties of each area.

Reinvesting certain competences and assuming new forms of governance increase the need to better pinpoint, for each subject, the strategic level of guidance, impulsion and coordination and the operational level, from the regional level down to the town level. Yes, the regions are indeed an opportunity for energy and ecological transition, provided they seize it fully, and we will give you a demonstration of this in Bordeaux! »