

TRANSCRIPT: ENERGY DAY

CONCLUDING REMARKS BY DR. WERNER FASSLABEND, MINISTER OF DEFENCE, REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA 1990 - 2000, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION

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Ali ASLAN

Thank you so much again Tiffany Persons for these inspiring words and we wish you good luck for your projects and in your future endeavors of course. We will certainly continue to monitor them and support them at least from afar. Well, this, believe me or not, this concludes Day 2 after the first two panels and Ms Persons' talk. I think this has been a very productive and stimulating day and we started off the day with the President of the CGDC with President Stoyanov who was kind enough to address this crowd in the morning and of course it's only fitting that we end the first day again with somebody from the CGDC and no other than the Vice President of the CGDC Werner Fasslabend who will now hold the concluding remarks and we are looking very much forward to them. Mr. Fasslabend [Applause]

Dr. Werner FASSLABEND

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I do not have the intention to repeat what you have heard already during this day. But I just want to make three additional remarks that I think that could be important also in order to sum up this issue of energy and also prepare a little bit the issue of democracy.

President Petar Stoyanov started this day with the statement that the world has changed dramatically. And I want to add not only since the fall of the Iron Curtain, the breakdown of the Soviet system but already 11 years earlier. Sometimes we forget that already in December 1978 Deng in China made his famous report to the Politburo where he started the economic reform in China that changed the world in a specific way. It was not only reform towards market economy, it was at the same time also the statement that in control of the process

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the Communist Party in China should stay. And if we look now it is a process and we have heard already so much about it - the increase of coal production that is more than oil and gas and others combined, but they also changed not only the system, the economic system in the world, but also the methods. And what I mean on energy sector is for example that up to this date it was clear that there should be a free global world market. Since then we have a situation where we also find that tendency of bilateral state treaties on the energy sector with a long-term range that maybe can in the longer run limit the perspectives. And if you think just of the fact that up to 2050 the population of China and India together combined will just grow in addition to that underworld, you can imagine that of course any limitation of global market could be decisive and I think it is important from the strategic aspect to look at this phenomenon and also to think it over, try to harmonize it, maybe if it is possible, but anyhow try to keep the market, the energy market, the global energy market as a free market. This is something we need for the future.

Second: What we should be aware is that energy policy worldwide has become at least to guite some respect a result of a bottom-up process. What do I mean? Many phenomena we do see now are not the result and the consequence of the policy of states or big actors like big companies of experts or so, but the other result of movements that come out of the society. And if you look just to two phenomena: on the one side as it was called today the hysteric reaction on the nuclear side after Fukushima in some country - I do not mention specific names. You can agree with it but you have to admit this was the result of people's movement, of people's tendency, of people's attitude towards this nuclear power out of fear, out of angst. But you have to be aware that emotions, that feelings are important and they can also decide on politics and that our energy politics, our energy policy is at least partly also steered by such phenomena that come from the bottom-up. And it is not only on the nuclear side but also on the renewable side, of course it is. What we have to take as a consequence that this is a fact and that we have to look at the society as a whole also on energy politics to take society seriously, to try with information, with public discussion and with public leadership to get it into the right direction. Don't leave energy policy just to some NGOs, but give it to the politicians, but also make them sure that they have to lead and they have to lead it in a responsible way into the right direction. It's necessary to be aware of it. It's not the big companies anymore and it's not a few groups of exports that can decide over the policy. It's coming from the people and this is very important also for the future.

Third: If you want to meet supply and demand, then we probably need two tendencies in the future: In a specific way, we need more centralization for example for continental or intercontinental energy transport structures. This will be necessary. We need maybe continental markets in Europe, we certainly have a need of more Europe on the energy



sector. I do not think that with 27 or 28 national politics this will find a good end. Of course we need a specific sort of centralization and on the other hand what we certainly will need is a tendency of decentral energy – supply of decentralization. If you look back at this map Mr Chichester has presented us about Africa, about the fact that in many countries more than 75% or more than 50% of the people do not have electricity ...

I am also engaged in Africa and I can tell you: You will never be able to bring enough energy to the different villages all over this huge continent and the same in South America, the same in many Asian countries with a centralized system. What we have to build up is decentralized system where you can bring energy supply closer to the people and therefore I also think that it was a really good example even if you cannot compare the situation in Güssing with some African situation, but you can find ways to do it.

And so far I think we should not only look at the prices, we should not only look at the amount of increasing energy demand, but we also should look at strategic questions and start strategic dimensions: is this free global market? Is this looking at the people, at energy policy that derives from the feeling, from the emotions of people, and also the task to steer the people, to steer the policy. Politicians cannot get out of their responsibility they have to steer and third -it would be necessary also to overthink whether there is just one method where we can bring enough supply to the people. I do not think so, it will be a double strategy with more centralization on the one side and decentralization on the other side.

So I will come to my end: Thank you very much for your attention and in the name of Petar Stoyanov and the whole team of our organization. I am looking forward to meeting you at 8 pm for dinner and I hope you will also find some time in between to appreciate a little bit from this wonderful city.

Thank you very much, and see you later! [Applause].