

## **PRESS RELEASE**

25th September 2009

### **DANISH GOVERNING PARTY MOVES TO CORRECT OVER-EMPHASIS ON ONSHORE WIND POWER**

In the last few days Venstre, the governing party in the Danish parliament, announced that it would be phasing out subsidy for onshore wind power in order to concentrate on other renewables such as biogas and solar.

In a press statement released on the 17th of September, Lars Christian Lilleholt, energy and environment spokesman for Venstre pointed out the very heavy burden now placed on consumers to support wind power, and announced the intention of putting a cap on this in order to concentrate on other technologies.

The change of emphasis comes after a year of increasing concern over the value for money offered by the Danish wind project. In May the Renewable Energy Foundation (REF) published a major study of the Danish and German spot price markets for electricity which noted that wind power was now beginning to place real strains on those systems.

The author of the study, one of Denmark's most respected engineers and a onetime Planning Director for the Danish grid, Mr Paul-Frederik Bach, pointed out that wind was posing problems without obvious or easily costed solutions. (See <http://www.ref.org.uk/PublicationDetails/53>)

Then in August the Danish think tank CEPOS published a study revealing that the majority of Danish wind power was being exported at below subsidy prices, with a net economic loss to the Danish consumer. (See <http://www.cepos.dk/>)

Dr John Constable, Director of Policy and Research for The Renewable Energy Foundation said: "The Danish experiment with wind power is producing results of great importance for the UK, and nothing could be more important than the fact that subsidy for wind has caused an over concentration on this one technology, just as it has in the UK. A change is long overdue here as it is in Denmark."

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For further information please contact Margareta Stanley on 020 7930 3636 or 07968 049 832, email [press@ref.org.uk](mailto:press@ref.org.uk) or visit our website [www.ref.org.uk](http://www.ref.org.uk)

## Notes for Editors

Danish Liberal Party announcement on Wind Energy Subsidy, 17.09.09

Source: the web site of the Danish Liberal party: Venstre.dk

Support for wind turbines should gradually be reduced and replaced by more money for the development of hydrogen, biogas and solar energy, the liberal spokesman on climate and energy, Lars Christian Lilleholt, says.

Since 1980 wind turbines have received support, and new estimates show that in the period since 2005 alone DKK 5.1 billion [£621 million] has been paid to the wind turbine owners. That cost has been borne by businesses and private consumers through their electricity bill.

It seems to have become a political fashion to say that there should be more support for wind. However, we have consistently aimed to reduce the support for onshore and offshore wind farms. Let us look at the support for onshore wind farms first, Lars Christian Lilleholt today says to Jyllands-Posten.

At the same time he emphasizes that there is no intention to change the existing agreements on support for wind turbines. Therefore he cannot promise that the electricity bills will be reduced, but on the other hand he will seek agreements that can put a ceiling on further costs to the consumer.

Phasing out support for wind turbines means that we will increase the support for other green energy technologies like solar, biogas, hydrogen and the development of biomass, Lars Christian Lilleholt says.

He points out that more support for other renewable energy sources is necessary in order to make the field of green energy more market oriented, compared with other types of energy.

For example businesses and private consumers have been slow to adopt photovoltaic plants today because they are too expensive. It will require more support to introduce solar cells in the market.

It is the government's target that we should do completely without fossil fuels like oil, gas and coal. But we cannot go on with wind power only, Lars Christian Lilleholt says.

Last spring the Liberal party led the way for a new energy agreement that will run until the end of 2011.