



Visby 2 July 2009

## Wind energy from a European perspective

**In partnership with the European Wind Energy Association, Swedish Wind Energy held a well-attended seminar aboard the M/S Sigyn in Visby harbour. The focus, as you would expect, was on wind power in Sweden and in Europe. Over the past 18 years, wind power in Europe has expanded more rapidly than nuclear power did in its first 18 years. In 2008, wind power really took off in respect of installed capacity, and grew more than any other type of energy.**

Matthias Rapp, President of Swedish Wind Energy, says that if Sweden is to keep up with the pace set by the rest of Europe, we must now build at least 500 MW of new wind power capacity each year. By 2020, the EU-27 will have constructed 250,000 MW, with 20 percent of this offshore. Last year, Europe installed 8,500 MW of new wind power capacity. This is the first time that wind power has overtaken natural gas, which expanded by just 7,000 MW.

Participants from Brussels and from the European Wind Energy Association included Dorina Iuga, Project Leader for the EU's Wind Energy the Facts project.

"Wind power in Europe has been well-established for many years, as we all know. We see Sweden as one of the crucial growth markets, and we regard a substantial expansion in Sweden as essential if Europe is to achieve its common goals", says Dorina Iuga.

In the past few days, Svenska Kraftnät has decided to prioritise the construction of a cable from Gotland to the mainland, an investment of SEK 2-3 billion. This will underpin the expansion of wind power on Gotland, and create hundreds of new jobs.

"The cable to Gotland means that many of the best projects will be achievable, which will really benefit both the people of Gotland and the whole of Sweden", concludes Matthias Rapp, President of Swedish Wind Energy.

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