



REGIERUNG
DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN

MINISTERIUM FÜR
PRÄSIDIALES UND FINANZEN

Begrüßungsrede von Regierungschef Adrian Hasler

anlässlich des

Financing Smart Sustainable Cities Forum Liechtenstein

7. – 8. November 2016

Ruggell

– es gilt das gesprochene Wort –

Honourable guests, ladies and gentlemen

I am very pleased that this international forum on the important topic of Smart Sustainable Cities is taking place in Liechtenstein. I would especially like to thank UNECE and OiER for organizing it.

It is more than high time to act! Fossil resources are dwindling, and climate change due to greenhouse gas emissions is going from bad to worse. We need to rethink our energy supply and make it safe, sustainable, environmentally friendly, and affordable. To do this, we must have discussions like those taking place here today and tomorrow.

I am convinced that our country is the ideal place to host an international forum on this existentially important topic. Let me explain briefly why I believe this is the case:

Already for many years, Liechtenstein has been committed at the national and international level to the protection of the environment and of climatic conditions. The Government of Liechtenstein has put a lot of effort into preparing the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This 2030 Agenda defines 17 goals for all UN Member States in regard to economic, social, and environmental development.

The Government of Liechtenstein strongly supports the international goals, using them to formulate our Energy Strategy 2020. That strategy is based on the 20:20:20 formula – which means specifically the following three targets: Liechtenstein will increase energy efficiency by 20% and stabilize energy consumption; increase the share of domestic, renewable energy sources to 20%; and cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20% compared with 1990. In the negotiations on the Paris Agreement for Climate Change, the Government went a step further and committed to reducing emissions by 40% by 2030. Given the high degree of industrialization in Liechtenstein, this is an ambitious goal – but with a great deal of effort and discipline, it is achievable.

So you see, Liechtenstein is investing a lot in the promotion of renewable energies and in the efficient use of resources. Let's take a look at the current status:

The Energy City label has been consistently awarded to all 11 municipalities of Liechtenstein since 2012 – a testimony to the sustainable energy policy of our municipalities.

Another result of this policy of promoting renewable energy is the enormous surge in photovoltaic systems. Since 2015, Liechtenstein has officially been able to call itself the World Champion in Solar Energy. This label was awarded to our country by the Solar Super State Association, because Liechtenstein's photovoltaic output is the highest worldwide, at 480 watts per capita.

But even the best policy can always only be successful if it is supported by the population and the private sector. Liechtenstein is fortunate to have very active organizations committed to the sustainable development of our country, working closely together with the Government.

It is a special pleasure in this regard to inform you that just last week, the Government endorsed the proposal by the LIFE Climate Foundation to establish a UNECE PPP Specialist Centre for Renewable Energy in Liechtenstein.

Our task is very extensive. We must take advantage of all technological and scientific potential at our disposal. Only if all of us make a contribution in all possible areas will we be able to win! Ultimately, we all share the same goal around the globe: to preserve our natural environment and to leave the best possible living conditions to future generations.

I have high hopes of this forum. Let's look for solutions and strive to implement them together.

I would like to thank all the experts, opinion leaders, and other interested persons for participating in this two-day forum, and I wish you fruitful discussions and good ideas!

Thank you for your attention.