

PALERMO CHARTER

In the past few days, the International Conference “Landscape under attack. The wind energy issue” was held in Palermo upon invitation by the President of the Sicilian Regional Authority, Raffaele Lombardo and in the presence of the Member of the Academy of France and former President of the French Republic, Valéry Giscard d’Estaing, of the President of the European Platform Against Windfarms, EPAW, Jean-Louis Butré, of Vittorio Sgarbi, of Carlo Ripa di Meana, of many Italian and international representatives of culture, university professors of renewable energies, delegates from the most important European landscape organizations.

The adopted charter aims at obtaining a moratorium on windfarms which can achieve the following objectives:

1. Clear legal instruments must be established for the protection of the landscape and biodiversity which prevent the installation of windfarms within areas which are important from historical, monument, landscape, nature viewpoints that Countries shall identify. Moreover, the constraint provided for respecting the surrounding areas shall be extended. It will eliminate from the visual horizon any windfarm installations.
2. Countries must carefully analyze the industrial windfarms highlighting direct and indirect costs and benefits. Tax e financial benefits granted shall be publicly discussed and analyzed by the competent Authorities.
3. The wind Energy industry shall not enjoy unjustified privileges; projects of the wind-energy industry must be approved or rejected like any other industrial activity, on the basis of their real profitability.
4. Countries must take on the commitment to make projects relating to new windfarms completely transparent and on the basis of the National legal instruments, to submit them to a public debate which involves the populations of the affected areas.
5. Lastly, Governments of the Countries are asked to carefully evaluate their responsibilities in relation to the devastating impact that windfarms have on environment, landscape and biodiversity. Future generations will judge them.