



R.E.S. with the fossil fuels cost, because energy is an International commodity that adds cost to all products and services. So, energy impacts the competitiveness of the products in the today global market..

For a company, the choice between fossil fuels or RES is strictly depending on the cost of energy, adjusted maybe, with the cost for the environmental impacts from the energy used, if the states will ever impose it.

With conventional energy sources, companies in general, which are willing to invest in energy production, consider that capital intensive activity, implicates to low employment numbers, but also to demand for highly qualified employees, which is more or less true, and so energy processing **is concentrated**. The result, as you know, is an important economic revenue for them and social problems for the societies.

With biomass this rule is not valid, because Biomass production is a dispersed activity, transportation distances should be limited for economic reasons and finally, by its nature, biomass processing is also dispersed. Even more in many cases, except liquid biofuels and electricity given to a general grid, biomass energy use is also dispersed.

Even if we will see the expectations of Prof. Jose Roberto Moreira to be applied in the world liquid biofuel market, **“the liquid biofuels to be produced and exported by several, limited in number, countries in the world”**, the “Kuwaits” in biofuels, biomass energy creates employment for the rural population, engaging them in the economic market and automatically solves several of today’s social problems, both in rural and urban areas, problems that are coming from the energy concentration.

We can say that biomass energy is a Social, a democratic source of energy.

I am not going to spend more of your precious time, because I am sure, my friends, that each one of you can mention a hundred of other reasons, why biomass is important.

This importance gives to you the enthusiasm to achieve excellent results, part of which you have presented in this 2<sup>nd</sup> International Biomass Conference. This progress was very obvious during these days in Rome.

I thank all of you very much and I express my Congratulations to the Organizers of the Conference.