

Letter to the Prime Minister on the Adoption and Application of the Sustainable Development National Strategy (ENDS).

Abstract

On July 9th, 2007, the National Council on Environment and Sustainable Development addressed a letter to the Prime Minister asking for attention regarding the need to clarify the situation and the statute of the Adoption and Envisagement of the Sustainable Development National Strategy (ENDS), since it did not have any additional information regarding the formal adoption of two fundamental strategic instruments (the second being the ENDS' Implementation Plan – PIENDS), regardless of the Resolution on the ENDS and the PIENDS being approved as mentioned in the Minister's Council Communicate, December 28th, 2006.

In that letter it was stressed that references to ENDS in documents such as QREN or PNPOT, require the enforcement of the abovementioned Strategy and Implementation Plan, also allowing the future projection in crucial public policies. The experience shows that the content of the documents is affirmed by the effective implementation. Only through a wide divulgation and application of the goals established in the ENDS and in the PIENDS, can these be assumed by the social partners, therefore contributing to include them, for without it no strategy will succeed.

In the aforementioned letter, it was also said, that Portugal incurs in the risk of becoming isolated from the other Union States, as it was visible in the recent EU -27 meeting held in Berlin, in the *Bundestag*, supervised by the German Presidency. Effectively, the European Council of June, 2006, under the Austrian Presidency, adopted the renewed and revised Sustainable Development European Strategy (SDES), also pronounced itself about the schedule to be fulfilled by all Member States.

It was also referred that June, 2007, within the framework of the revised SDES, was mentioned as the date in which the first Sustainable Development National Strategies should be definitively concluded. On the other hand, June, 2007, was also assumed as the month in which European countries should, through their respective Focal Point, presented to the European Commission the relevant information regarding the status of their respective national strategic instruments, so as to enable the making of a Progress Report, scheduled for September, 2007.