



War or Wind?

The giant windmills dotting the European countryside seem like outsized toy pinwheels spread across the landscape. It's a view far preferable to mountaintops raked bare by strip mining.

According to Christian Kjaer, head of the European Wind Energy Association, wind and other renewable energies in the EU could reduce dependence on fossil fuels for the energy crunch that can only accelerate in the future. In an interview with the EUobserver, he said, "If we make a committed effort for [renewables] we wouldn't need to engage with the rest of the world in a 'war' for the remaining conventional energy sources."

Kjaer strongly advocates increased efforts to develop wind, water and other energy sources and less reliance on energy "diplomacy". The EU boasts 71.6 percent of the world's installed wind power capacity compared to North America's 14 percent. Perhaps, we should install some wind turbines in the halls of Congress?

Enjoy the Language, Share the Culture

Vive la amitie! There's an unusual cultural exchange center in Rennes, France. Co-founded in 1961 by the American Embassy in Paris and Rennes City Hall, The Franco-American Institute offers diverse cultural activities, including American English courses. Other offerings range from lending libraries and conferences to concerts and art exhibitions.

Recently granted 501C status in the United States, the center now is eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. For those who want to foster cultural understanding and counteract the inane "Freedom Fries" thinking, you may make a contribution to the Friends of the Franco American Institute. Send your check to: Michael La Vean, Friends of the Franco American Institute, Box 31, 108 Mill Street, Saranac, MI 48881.



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Thomas Hull

For more information about the Institute, visit their website:
<http://www.ifa-rennes.org/>

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