

Public Hearings of the Solar Thermal Obligations

Introduction

The development of a **solar ordinance** is one more action in which decisions are required and in which the social role is and must be decisive.

In a globalized world in which actions increasingly have global repercussions, it is essential public participation, the collective views and consensus decision-making.

A solar ordinance, as the legal system it is, should be subject to these holdings and social consensus, thus providing added value to the ordinance and ensuring the right operation of the same.

Development of a solar thermal ordinances

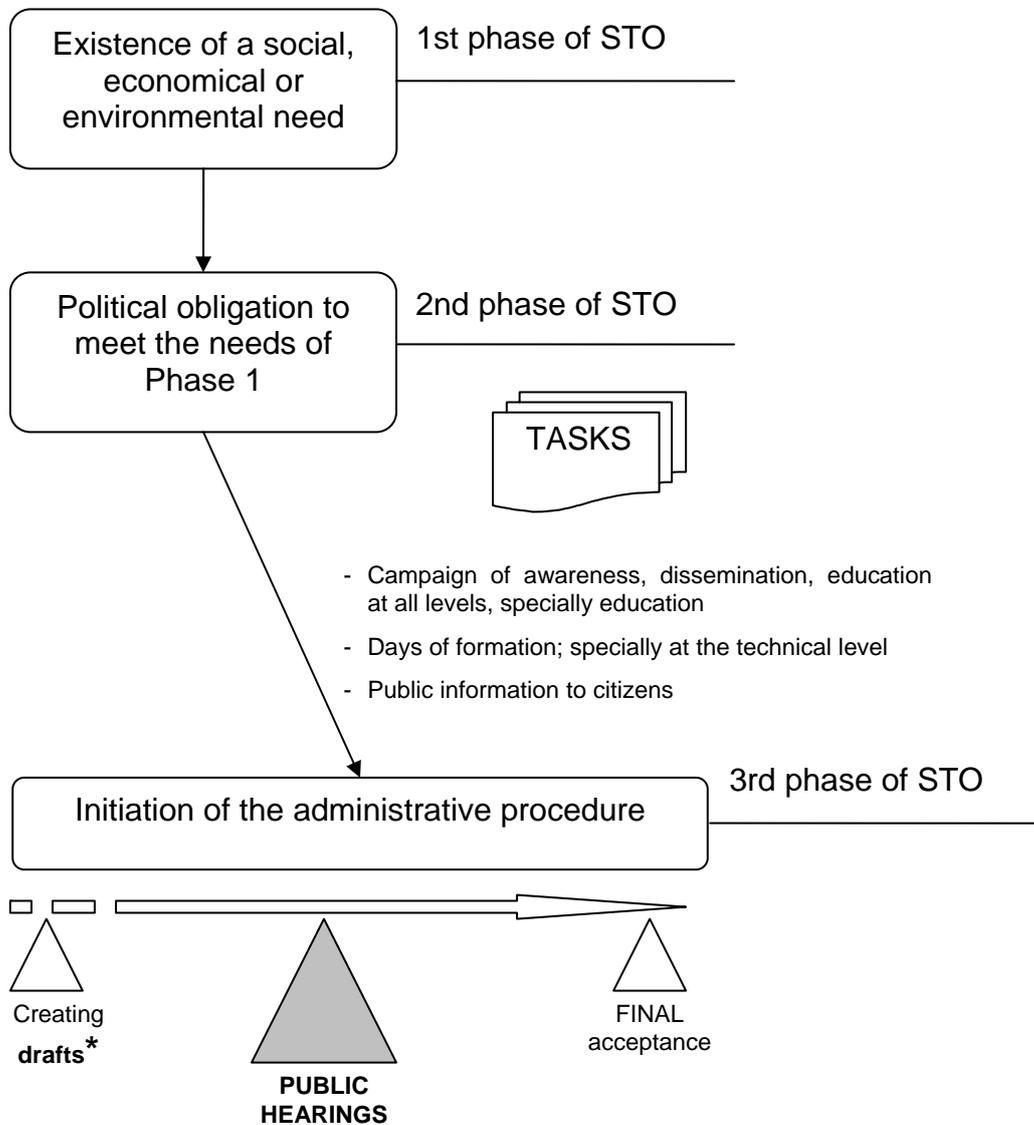
In the process of complete development of an ordinance there are usually **several stages**:

1st. A first phase in which antecedent was created, where there is a social, environmental or economic need for a specific topic. In our case, those antecedents are clearly an **energy crisis** and a need for **sustainable development**.

2nd. The social need is essential, and forces politicians to meet the demands of citizens. It is necessary to legislate the need for the first phase. With regard to STO, the citizen realizes the energy crisis and asks **their government for solutions**. It is in this second phase where the administration that is going to carry out the development of the ordinance must lead the way and introduce to the population the context of the ordinance (of course here the cultural, social, environmental and economic community in question has an important role).

3rd. The decision is made and the **Administrative Procedure Ordinance** starts.

A basic outline of procedure for public hearings of the ordinance would:



Tool for Public Hearings

Public consultations should be established with the following essential elements:

- 1.- Information (and use all its means of spreading).
- 2.- Training (all levels)
- 3.- Awareness-Education
- 4.- Spreading
- 5.-Social, technical and administrative

The public hearings system is divided into four areas: Social, Economic, Environmental and Technical. And in all of them there are many agents involved.

Social

- Neighbourhood associations
- Organizations
- Citizen-inhabitant

Economic

- Chambers of Commerce
- Industries
- Business Associations
- Financial institutions

Environmental

- Environmental organizations
- Environmental Ministries
- Schools
- Scientific community

Technical

- Professional Associations
- Technology Centres
- Technical Ministries
- Industry associations
- Technology community

The matrix of relationship between the essential elements of public consultations and the four key areas would be as follows:

	Information	Training	Awareness-education	Spreading	Social and technical opinion
Social					
Economic					
Environmental					
Technical					

Check list for the elaboration of consultation

- *What organizations in your community can be involved?. Making a list. Organizations able to train, information, dissemination and opinion.*

- *Development of a standard letter of introduction to ask:*
 - *Career and technical education*
 - *Information Dissemination*
 - *Opinion regarding the ordinance. In this case the first drafts would be the main tool*

- *Establish lines of communication and follow-up:*
 - *E-mail*
 - *Postal Mail*
 - *Fax-Tel*
 - *Official communications*
 - *Gazettes*
 - *Bulletin Boards*
 - *Webs*

- *Establishment of a committee of experts to process information obtained (Delphi method, SWOT, ...)*

- *Avoid bias with the institutions or organizations. Limited opportunity to consult*

Conclusions and Recommendations

Sometimes, the public hearings system does not take into account all the essential elements (information, training, awareness, spreading, social and technical review) and only performs some actions, creating an incomplete public hearing and sometimes non-consensual.

It is necessary to follow all the previous steps before the consultations. Without this, queries will not be complete, reliable or consensual. And so, they will not fulfil its real mission, being a fantastic tool for the development of STO.

One of the errors found in the public hearings is that sometimes the ordinances do not reach the citizen, and only specialized agencies only provide ideas or arguments, but they fail because they are not fully informed in advance. It is necessary to make profit of more media (the Internet, social networks, etc.).

References

/ 1 / <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/>

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Go to www.solarordinances.eu Ordinances for more information on the project Solar thermal and proSTO.

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