

Re: How Africa's desert sun can bring Europe power

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- *From:* xnichols@xxxxxxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* Mon, 3 Dec 2007 11:05:35 -0800 (PST)
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On 3 Dec, 05:01, LongmuirG <Longmu...@xxxxxxx> wrote:

Good thing about this is that it recognizes commercial-scale solar power is going to have to be a huge industrial operation -- not some rinky-dink photocells on roofs in upscale European neighborhoods. The infrastructure simply to build the generators, cables, cable-laying, etc is going to be immense. Now, remind me why this is preferable to a set of nuclear power plants on European territory?

Well I can think of a few reasons:

- 1) Almost every European country has a population density of between 300-600 people per square mile.
i.e. between 4-8 times higher than the USA and thousands of times higher than the Sahara region, which is economically almost useless.
- 2) There are very few remote areas in Europe where nuclear waste can be deposited safely over thousands of years.
- 3) Solar power will always be available and is a proven and improving technology.
- 4) The mutual economic benefits to both regions could be used to equalise the disparity in wealth which is at the route of conflicts. Whereas a European energy autarchy, which stopped the flow of oil and gas revenues to N.Africa and the Middle East would exacerbate them.
- 5) The development of solar energy has no military spin offs, so it can reduce military paranoia over the possibility of the development of atomic weapons.
- 6) Fusion power would of course solve the energy crisis, but there is absolutely no chance that a practical system for it will be developed within the timescale that global warming needs to be prevented. Other than solar energy that is.

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