



Activity Report 2019

European Energy Forum



Activity Report 2019

By the European Energy Forum

Ditte Juul Jørgensen

Director-General for Energy European Commission

2019 has been an important year for European energy policy. The main legislative proposals comprising the Energy Union were completed by the co-legislators. The Clean Energy for All Europeans package, made up of 8 pieces of legislation, will transform Europe's energy system, making it more climate-friendly – while ensuring energy security - and putting it at the service of consumers and Europe's economy and competitiveness.

The package includes new and ambitious targets for 2030 an increase to at least 32.5% and 32% in energy efficiency and renewable energy use respectively. It exhaustively reforms electricity markets to make them flexible and fit for a renewables-based energy system. The package also ensures all actors can participate in the energy transition, rewarding them for their flexibility and empowering consumers and communities to generate their own electricity. Crucially, the new rules will end subsidies to the most polluting plants. In addition, the Energy Union's new governance system came into effect in 2019, with the submission and assessment of EU countries' national energy and climate plans for 2021-2030.

The climate crisis also moved to the top of the political agenda, with millions of people around the world taking to the streets, calling for action to fight climate change. The new Commission President Ursula von der Leyen presented on 11 December the flagship climate and energy initiative called the European Green Deal, aimed at making Europe the first climate-neutral continent. Energy will play a central role in achieving this objective given



that 75% of all greenhouse gas emissions stem from the production and use of energy.

The role of the European Energy Forum – as a place for discussion for all EU energy actors under the leadership of Honourable Member of Parliament, President Buzek – will be more important than ever to remind EU policymakers of the importance of our long-term goals and of maintaining our level of ambition towards a fully decarbonised economy and society in 2050 with clean, secure and competitive energy markets at the service of consumers. I look forward to continued fruitful cooperation between the European Energy Forum and DG Energy in working towards these common goals.

Jerzy Buzek

President of the EEF MEP - EPP, Poland European Parliament

From the European Union's perspective, the year 2019 has been a major milestone which marked the beginning of a new EU era: newly elected MEPs and a new College of EU Commissioners headed by President Ursula von der Leyen.

For our European Energy Forum, the year 2019 has been also very intense. In July, the General Assembly re-elected me as President of the Forum. I am extremely grateful to my fellow colleagues MEPs for their trust and I am honoured to lead the organisation for the next 5 year-term with our Vice-Presidents: Pilar del Castillo (EPP), Neena Gill (S&D) and Miapetra Kumpula-Natri (S&D).

In the EEF we give high importance to diversity, in terms of political views, gender and geographical balance. We always seek to expand even more our attendance and membership. Therefore, I am thankful to all my colleagues newly elected to the European Parliament for the interest to our Forum and for bringing fresh views from all sides of the political spectrum.

Our commitment to diversify concerns also the topics of the meetings. The European Green Deal and its impact on EU policies will certainly be one of our central themes in the future. We will however also address other important issues, which are of interest to our Members.

In 2019 I celebrated my personal 15-th anniversary of cooperation with the EEF - I attended my first dinner-debate in 2004. Already back then I understood that this is "a place to be"



for MEPs who would like to get first-hand information on the most pressing energy-related topics. And even more importantly, it is a unique platform for a discussion and exchange of ideas.

But the association was created well before 2014. In 2020 the European Energy Forum will celebrate its 25 years! Recent Commission's communication on the European Green Deal recognizes that it takes 25 years to transform an industrial sector and all the value chains. Applying the same criteria to organizations, we can proudly say that the EEF is now fully mature as a key player bridging the policy-makers and the industry and contributing to shaping the EU energy and climate policies.

I am happy to be part of this success story that is only possible thanks to the excellent cooperation of the European Parliament, European Commission and the industry. I sincerely hope the EU in a quarter of a century perspective will be at least as much successful in its ambitious cross-sector transformation as the EEF. And to our Forum I wish at least another 25 years of continuing to provide a platform for discussion on this crucial cross-sector transformation.

I would like to thank you for a great year of collaboration, and I am looking forward to meeting you at the European Energy Forum meetings and debates in 2020!



The European Parliament election year 2019 has been challenging in many ways, especially with 2/3 of the MEPs being new to the Parliament. A new Parliament, and now a new Commission, require adaptation to which the dynamic EEF team was ready to react.

Thanks to a handful of committed Active MEPs, we can say that the EEF has succeeded in guaranteeing the continuity needed for its work. Our Associate Members, from the energy industry, have supported us through these changes and provided ever more food for thought with an increasing number of events and, already, some record attendances.

Our contacts with the Commission are strong as witnessed with the recently appointed Director-General Ditte Juul Jørgensen addressing our audience in early September.

We complete a brilliant 2019 and look to 2020 with interest, enthusiasm and an anniversary to celebrate, as the EEF turns 25 years of existence.

Pascale Verheust,
Director General



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Our values

MEPs created the European Energy Forum (EEF) because it is crucial to have a platform where MEPs, the European Commission, associations and industries or all other interested parties can exchange information, debate and discuss topics high on the energy agenda. It is an ongoing success for 24 years.

Information is key

The demand for regular dialogue between parties involved at EU level is high. Taking energy decisions is a process that requires access to technological information and a diversity of points of view. By promoting dialogue and exchange of expertise, the EEF aims at informing EU decision-makers on energy-related issues. It provides MEPs with a chance to openly discuss with all stakeholders, so as to take decisions based on accurate information and a variety of points of view.

Why ?

- Need to access timely information and quality content
- All energy topics and energy-related issues should be tackled in the discussion on our common European energy future
- All points of view are valuable and needed in the discussion
- Entities representing different energy sectors should be present in every energy discussion to guarantee a broader view

How ?

Meet

A diverse community of Members of the European Parliament, industries, business experts, European Commission, diplomatic representatives and other energy professionals.

Get Informed

Through the contribution of international experts, each discussion focusses on subjects at the top of the EU energy, climate or transport agenda.

Debate

It's all about the discussion! We encourage participants to express opinions, ask questions, and exchange views with a wide range of stakeholders during each event.

What ?

Energy, climate, transport

24 years of experience in top level energy-related discussions

Topics at the top of the EU agenda cross-sectoral approach

About 20 events a year

360° approach: all points of view welcomed

Meet, get informed, debate with energy experts

Chatham House Rule





Be part of the EEF community

The European Energy Forum community includes Active Members, Associate Members, the EEF team, and the EEF Network. Bringing together diverse points of view and opinions stimulates the exchange of information and adds value to the discussion.

Quotes



Miguel Arias Cañete **Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy (2014 – 2019)**

«The European Energy Forum is important because it brings the energy industry and MEPs together, offering them the possibility to discuss in an open framework. There is no other format like this».

State of the Energy Union: «Building on the last 5 years to shape the future»
A discussion with Commissioner Arias Cañete
15 July 2019, Strasbourg



Dominique Rostor **Director-General for Energy, European Commission (until July 2019)**

«The European Energy Forum plays a major role, building a bridge and establishing a permanent dialogue between the Commission, the Parliament and all energy stakeholders».

EEF General Assembly and reception «Energy is at the top of the EU agenda »
2 July 2019, Strasbourg



Professor Klaus-Dieter Borchardt **Deputy Director-General for Energy, European Commission**

«I cannot say how big pleasure is to be back to the EEF dinner-debates. This setting always offers very lively discussions and it has always been a pleasure for me to take part in these events».

«Exchange of views with the Finnish Presidency: enabling a sustainable transition in energy and marine transport»
1 October 2019, Brussels



MEP Professor Inese Vaidere **EPP, Latvia & EEF Director**

«2019 has been marked by increased ambition to develop the energy sector in a more sustainable way.

At the same time, we need to power our economy, so traditional energy sources will remain important during the transition.

The EEF is a great platform to exchange ideas between MEPs who legislate on Europe's future energy and leading companies that will need to implement changes on the ground».



MEP Franc Bogovič **EPP, Slovenia & EEF Director**

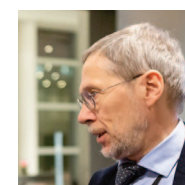
«I consider it a privilege being an Active Member of the EEF. I believe the EEF is one of the best organised stakeholder platforms within the European Parliament, connecting MEPs with different stakeholders from all fields of the European energy sector. The EEF can be described as an open floor for serious, strategic and fact-based debates, which go way beyond the political or ideological issues that are, unfortunately, gaining momentum within an institution such as the European Parliament.

We, the politicians who are the creators of a European future, must be vocal about the development and implementation of technologies that will help us become the global champion of carbon neutrality. We must put technology before ideology! Our decisions must be based on scientific facts and input from the experts within the sectors, influenced by our decisions, not emotions and populism. The EEF is and shall by all means remain a platform that is guided by facts, not emotions».



MEP Ondřej Knotek **RE, Czechia & EEF Active Member**

«For the European Union it has been an important year with many changes in the energy sector. Energy is more than ever at the heart of the European political agenda with the Green Deal, the Just Transition Fund and the energy transition. There is, without any doubt, the need for a forum to discuss, exchange views, and identify mutual solutions to all these challenges. The EEF is the answer to such need, offering the opportunity to all participants to express their own vision, and to share best practices among Member States and companies. This platform involves all the main players in the field at a crucial moment when Europe aims at becoming a global leader in the transition from carbon-based economies. I definitely welcome the existence of the EEF and I'm very delighted to participate as MEP in the EEF in the future. I thank the whole EEF team for the very good job done insofar. I'm looking forward to next years of EEF activities».



MEP Liudas Mažylis **EPP, Lithuania & EEF Active Member**

«The discussions held in the EEF are very complex and important as they cover the topics of geopolitics and energy transition. I am glad and proud to be a member of the European Energy Forum, because all together we seek for solutions to challenges of fighting climate change.

Participating in the EEF discussions encourages me to constantly update my knowledge about different regions and cities of Europe and integration of various energies. Open dialogue with colleagues stimulates future energy perspective».

Active Members

The EEF Active Members are MEPs interested in energy topics. Most of them are part of the Energy (ITRE) or the Environment (ENVI) Committees of the European Parliament and the EEF indeed has a tradition of welcoming in its active membership MEPs from any Committee, country or political party, provided they wish to be informed on energy subjects.

Active Members are key to the well-functioning of the EEF. They define the work programme and attend the EEF events on a regular basis. Their active involvement adds greater value to all organised activities, confirming the importance of the EEF as a platform for discussions, information and exchanges of views. The EEF currently counts 24 Active Members. The Board of Directors was elected on 2nd July 2019, after the EU elections. It is composed of 10 MEPs. The Board of Directors is composed of Active Members of various nationalities and from different political groups.

The Bureau is composed of the President, MEP Jerzy Buzek - EPP, Poland, the Treasurer, MEP Neena Gill CBE - S&D, UK, Vice-Presidents MEP Miapetra Kumpula-Natri - S&D, Finland and MEP Pilar del Castillo Vera - EPP, Spain. It meets several times a year to discuss the EEF activity.

Board Members (2019-2024)



Jerzy Buzek
President
EPP, Poland



Neena Gill CBE
Treasurer and
Vice-President
S&D, UK



**Pilar
del Castillo Vera**
Vice-President
EPP, Spain



**Miapetra
Kumpula-Natri**
Vice-President
S&D, Finland



Franc Bogovič
Director
EPP, Slovenia



Seán Kelly
Director
EPP, Ireland



**Morten Helveg
Petersen**
Director
RE, Denmark



**Massimiliano
Salini**
Director
EPP, Italy



**Evžen
Tošenovský**
Director
ECR, Czechia



Inese Vaidere
Director
EPP, Latvia

Active Members (2019-2024)



Judith Bunting
RE, UK



**Cristian-Silviu
Buşoi**
EPP, Romania



Daniel Caspary
EPP, Germany



András Gyürk
EPP, Hungary



Radan Kanev
EPP, Bulgaria



Ondřej Knotek
RE, Czechia



**Zdzisław
Krasnodębski**
ECR, Poland



Liudas Mažylis
EPP, Lithuania



Csaba Molnár
S&D, Hungary



Angelika Niebler
EPP, Germany



Juozas Olekas
S&D, Lithuania



Sven Schulze
EPP, Germany



Maria Spyrali
EPP, Greece



**Henna
Virkkunen**
EPP, Finland

Associate Members

EEF Associate Members are companies from the energy sector, associations, energy-intensive industries, regulators as well as research organisations operating in the energy field. They all contribute to the life of the EEF by actively participating in each EEF activity and helping build up the programme for the year.

The EEF deeply values its Members' support, which is fundamental in providing useful information on the particular energy subjects. At present, the EEF has the pleasure to work for and cooperate with 84 Associate Members all over the European Union and beyond.

Associate Members as of 31 December 2019



EEF Network

The EEF Members liaise with a broad network of people interested in the topics.

- European Parliament
- European Commission
- Council of the European Union
- Permanent Representations and Missions to the EU
- but also other institutions from the EU or outside involved or interested in the EU energy dimension.



The EEF remains focused on the energy policy of the European Union. The amplitude of its network enables its members to gather the best ideas and practices on a large scale.

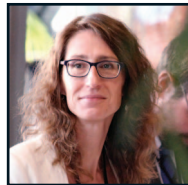


EEF Team

The strength of the EEF team lies in its multi-tasked nature and a highly cooperative spirit.

All members of the team have a diverse and sound background knowledge, thanks to which they are able to complement each other. By enhancing their personal skills through their cooperation in the daily work, they can successfully carry out all the required tasks.

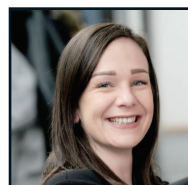
The EEF team takes care of the core business of the EEF, the events from A to Z, which requires knowledge, attention, communication skills and a good degree of expertise. To keep up with the changing world, the team must understand and meet the evolving different visual and communication needs. Research on the EU political environment and on the energy field is a key part of the work, enabling the EEF team to have a clear view of the legislation under discussion in the Parliament and to better meet the needs of information of the EEF members. It all goes down to the details that make the EEF what it is.



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Erasmus + Internship

The EU Erasmus + internship programme offers students and companies all over the EU the chance to dive together into an enriching working journey. For the second consecutive year, the EEF welcomed two students from the Florence "Cesare Alfieri" School of Political Science – International Relations and European Studies Master Course.

Luca Papini stayed with us for the winter season of events (January-April), while Marilena d'Auria joined our team during the autumn period (September-November).

The fruitful cooperation with Luca and Marilena, based on mutual exchanges of ideas, values and viewpoints, strongly contributed to enhancing the EEF team's daily work and confirmed the deep value of the Erasmus + as a programme promoting great cross-cultural cooperation.



Our activities

Dinner-debates, study visits and briefings. Through different formats, all these activities aim to achieve the same goal of offering a place for education, knowledge-sharing and information exchange.

All the EEF events provide general information and a place where participants can explain their visions and ask their questions. The diversity of the EEF membership makes it so that there are always, in the audience, different views represented.

Expertise

The EEF daily work is based on almost 25 years of experience in the organisation of dinner-debates, discussions and information visits on energy subjects. This lasting experience has enabled us to keep on improving the quality of our activities, adapting them to the fast-changing EU energy system, although remaining firmly anchored to our basic principles.

Step by step approach

The EEF makes sure this experience unfolds in the best conditions, ensuring each step is properly taken:

- Every Associate Member can contact the EEF team with a topic proposal
- Proposals are submitted to Active Members
- Thanks to its expertise, the EEF is able to choose the best date for the event based on the EU agenda and taking into consideration the Associate Member's preference
- The EEF takes care of the entire organisation process as well as of all logistical aspects, making sure everything goes smoothly and ends up being a success
- A poster is created to provide the event with a visual identity, strengthening both the communication strategy and the promotion of the event and is hung in the European Parliament, inviting all MEPs to participate

Debates

Debates are the core of the EEF activities. They take place at the European Parliament's premises twice a month: in Brussels and in Strasbourg. The energy topic discussed is linked to the EP agenda and is proposed by the EEF members. A high-level speaker first offers an overview of the subject and, when appropriate, a second speaker complements this information. The events are co-hosted by Associate Members, thus providing a broader perspective of the subject. An intervention from a representative of the European Commission follows, offering explanations and clarifications on the relevant EU legislative framework.

The interventions are followed by the Q&A session, which is the backbone of all the EEF energy discussions. Every participant is invited to give his/her personal contribution as well as to ask questions, leading the way to a lively and fruitful debate.



Briefing sessions

Having a sound understanding of energy is fundamental to discuss and comprehend energy issues. The EEF is always keen on organising briefing sessions for Active Members and other MEPs' Advisors and Assistants, helping them be better informed on specific energy-related topics. The EEF briefings are developed with the help of the EEF Associate Members, reflecting the cooperation between the political and industrial levels at the basis of the Forum's community. These sessions take place at the European Parliament's premises in Brussels. A panel of experts first provides an explanatory overview of the specific energy subject, while Advisors and Assistants are encouraged to ask for clarifications and to provide their points of view during the Q&A session, giving rise to a learning and interactive discussion.



Visits

EEF visits are organised to show to the EEF members, both Active and Associate, the reality of the industry, bringing them onsite where everything happens. These visits involve meetings with several representatives from local governments, civil society and NGOs within the broader aim of informing and educating participants on the technological aspects linked to specific policy discussions. In enabling the EEF members to get to know the tangible aspects of the energy reality, this experience also helps them gain a closer and deeper understanding of the concrete and local impact their decisions are likely to have.



EEF Events in 2019

2019 New year reception

Tuesday 8 January
European Parliament Brussels

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Can the EU afford to leave rural areas behind in its energy transition?

Tuesday 15 January
European Parliament Strasbourg

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A post COP24 discussion with Commissioner Arias Cañete

Tuesday 29 January
Brussels

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Roads to an affordable energy transition towards 2050

Tuesday 12 February
European Parliament Strasbourg

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Geopolitics of Energy Transition

Monday 18 February
European Parliament Brussels

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Energy Discussion - «The EEF before and after the elections»

Tuesday 12 March
European Parliament Strasbourg

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General Assembly and Reception « Energy is at the top of the EU agenda »

Tuesday 2 July
European Parliament Strasbourg

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**State of the Energy Union: « Building on the last 5 years to shape the future »
A discussion with Commissioner Arias Cañete**

Monday 15 July
European Parliament Strasbourg

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Energy Transition: exchange of views with Director-General for Energy Ditte Juul Jørgensen

Tuesday 3 September
European Parliament Brussels

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10 years of achievements after the Third Energy Package: perspectives on the #FutureEnergySystem

Tuesday 17 September
European Parliament Strasbourg

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In need of a robust European energy system: a vision from the EU and Ukraine

Wednesday 25 September
European Parliament Brussels

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Exchange of views with the Finnish Presidency: enabling a sustainable transition in energy and marine transport

Tuesday 1 October
European Parliament Brussels

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Energy Transition: towards the final energy mix in 2050

Wednesday 16 October
European Parliament Brussels

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Circular energy: how waste contributes to clean cities and mobility

Tuesday 22 October
European Parliament Strasbourg

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EU Green Deal: gas infrastructure as an energy carrier on the road to 2050

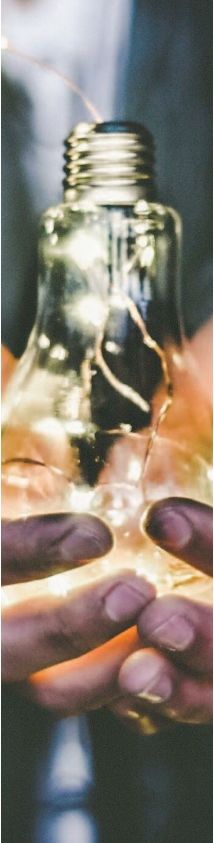
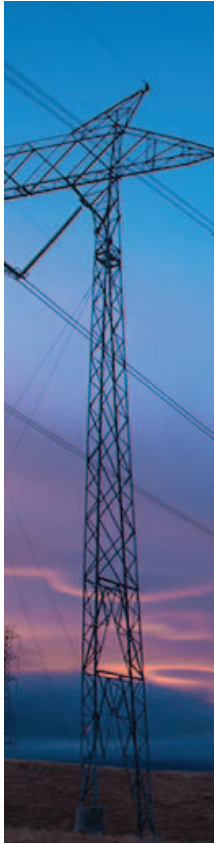
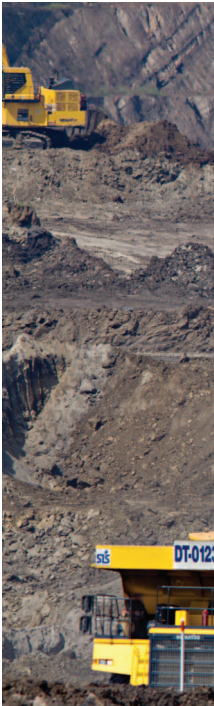
Tuesday 12 November
European Parliament Brussels

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Sector integration: gas driving the energy transition

Tuesday 26 November
European Parliament Strasbourg

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2019 New year reception

Tuesday 8 January 2019 - European Parliament, Brussels
Hosted by the EEF

Chaired by **Jerzy Buzek** - MEP EPP, Poland & President of the EEF

2019 was a very special year with the EU elections taking place in May. The EEF organised its new year cocktail reception to kickstart the year with an open discussion between members and to raise a glass to another rewarding and fruitful year ahead. Organised in an informal and elegant atmosphere, the cocktail reception gave each of EEF members the chance to bring his contribution to and feedback on the Forum.

Jerzy Buzek, President of the EEF, outlined the importance of the European elections, focusing on the new possibilities that such renewed EP would bring to the Forum as well as on the crucial events already in the EEF 2019 agenda. Before giving the floor to the Associate Members, Mr Buzek highlighted the fundamental role played by the EEF for more than 20 years in stimulating a constant and fruitful dialogue among EP members, energy industry representatives, energy stakeholders and beyond.

Many of the guests picked up the microphone next: **Jo Leinen, MEP and longstanding active member of the EEF**, expressed his gratitude for having being part of such an important organisation and highlighted how the EEF has particularly flourished under the presidency of Mr Buzek.

MEP Peter Kouroumbashev, who joined the EEF in 2018, congratulated for the outstanding job done by the Forum in helping legislators and policymakers "understand what needs to be done".

Megan Richards, Director of Energy Policy at DG ENER, European Commission, thanked the Forum for the important role it plays in enabling dialogue between different stakeholders and highlighted the value the European Commission gives to the view of the industry.



Many were the praises for the job done, the wishes to keep the EEF's brilliant work up as well as the guests thanking the Forum for the ongoing support it provides.

This first meeting concluded with an eager look at the future and the confident prospect of another fruitful year of debates, exchanges and reflections on energy policies.



Can the EU afford to leave rural areas behind in its energy transition?

Tuesday 15 January 2019 - European Parliament, Strasbourg
Hosted by SHV Energy

Chaired by **Jerzy Buzek** - MEP EPP, Poland & President of the EEF
Steven Sels - CEO of Primagaz France (SHV Energy company)
Ilias Vazaios - Managing Partner of Ecuity Consulting
Tudor Constantinescu - Principal Advisor to the Director General for Energy, European Commission
Franc Bogovič - MEP EPP, Slovenia, Active Member of the EEF & Member of the RUMRA intergroup

The EEF opened its 2019 dinner-debates season with a discussion on the decarbonisation potential of rural regions, the specific challenges faced by their energy users as well as on the needed policy framework.

Steven Sels, CEO of Primagaz France, stressed 27 000 villages in France are not connected to the grid and 42% of rural areas citizens still use coal and oil for heating, which has an important impact on the environment and the transition path. LPG and Biopropane could support the switch from fossil fuels for heating and improve air quality, as they generate 20% less emissions of CO₂ than heating oil. By not requiring new investments for the installation, they could also help tackle energy poverty.

Ilias Vazaios, Managing Partner of Ecuity Consulting, presented a study focusing on European markets. He explained oil and gas have a significant penetration, questioned the decarbonisation of rural buildings, and considered what could be the most cost-effective solutions to achieve the transition. Since up to 90% of the buildings of 2050 are already there, policies should focus on their improvement in order to achieve significant changes. The challenges faced are emphasised in rural areas, characterised by older buildings and lack of connection to the grids. Some EU Member States already have political ambition towards phasing out oil and coal, showing the political debate is more than just a theoretical plan. "The decarbonisation of 80% of the energy mix by 2050 is possible if we accelerate the switch to alternative solutions and focus on the high interplay between decarboni-

sation and air quality", Mr Vazaios concluded.

"We should always speak about a clean and fair energy transition", said **Tudor Constantinescu, Principal Advisor to the Director General for Energy, European Commission** referring to the Cohesion Policy launched by the European Commission. Rural areas represent 28% of the EU population and "cannot be left behind". The transition is about avoiding locking effects and making sure that there are no stranded costs in the energy system. Rural areas also face a higher risk of poverty than urban ones and several EU citizens already are at risk of energy poverty, which is unacceptable. Mr Constantinescu presented some projects of the Commission supporting and guiding the transition of rural areas such as the development of Renewable Energy Communities and the Covenant of Mayors.

Additional remarks were given by **Franc Bogovič, MEP, Active Member of the EEF and Member of the intergroup RUMRA (Rural, Mountainous and Remote areas)**, created to develop solutions to support rural areas in their transition on different levels such as energy or education. He insisted the main energy issue faced by these areas is that each region has its particularities which makes the adoption of one unique solution impossible.



A post COP24 discussion with Commissioner Arias Cañete

Tuesday 29 January 2019 - Brussels
Hosted by the EEF

Chaired by **Jerzy Buzek** - MEP EPP, Poland & President of the EEF

Miguel Arias Cañete - Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, European Commission

The EEF had the privilege to welcome **Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, Miguel Arias Cañete**, for a passionate discussion on the achievements of the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as well as on the challenges the European Union is facing both in climate action and the energy field.

This event saw an impressive turn out of many different guests. MEPs, industry representatives, as well as members of the Permanent Representations and Missions to the EU all participated in a fruitful discussion on the present and future of the EU energy policy, each of them bringing value to the conversation. In his opening speech, **Jerzy Buzek, President of the EEF** thanked the Commissioner for his great work over the years and asked his opinion and advice on the future EU energy policy.

Commissioner Arias Cañete highlighted how ambitious and forward-looking the EU targets for climate action are. Starting from the signing of the Paris Agreement in 2015, all the pieces of legislation needed to achieve such targets have been put in place, which is impressive. In the next future, the implementation of this legislation, in the hands of the new Commission, will be key to guarantee the EU a global leading role in pushing forward climate action. The Commissioner took time to analyse the progress made by the EU in achieving the 2020 climate goals, underlying how important it is to properly interlink climate action with a social and fair energy transition, ensuring no region is left behind, especially those likely to be more severely hit by the changes.

An extremely lively discussion followed, along the lines drawn by the Commissioner himself. Many asked questions and debated over the future of the energy union, the role of the next Commission in the implementation of the existing legislation and the expectations for different energy sectors. Concerns about the future of the gas industry were also put forward, together with the wish for gas being still part of the future energy mix. The mission to create a substantial gas market mirroring the electricity one is believed to be one of the more interesting challenges for the next term of office. The intense debate touched upon many other heterogeneous topics, among which LNG, the diversification of energy supply, hydrogen, the international dimension of climate action, the electrification process, the next COP meeting in Chile, the possibility to counter carbon emission on a global scale, the synchronisation of the electricity network in Ukraine, and the future role of nuclear energy.

Speaking also on behalf of the EEF, **MEP and Treasurer of the EEF Julie Girling** had the chance to express her gratitude to Commissioner Arias Cañete not only for his presence in this fruitful debate, but for the past years of collaboration and great work done, wishing him the best for his future ahead.



Roads to an affordable energy transition towards 2050

Tuesday 12 February 2019 - European Parliament, Strasbourg
Hosted by ENGIE

Chaired by **Miapetra Kumpula-Natri** - MEP S&D, Finland & Vice-President of the EEF
Didier Holleaux - Executive Vice-President of ENGIE
Sylvain Lhôte - Director General of CEPI (Confederation of European Paper Industries)
Rémi Mayet - Deputy Head of Unit of Security of Supply, DG ENER, European Commission

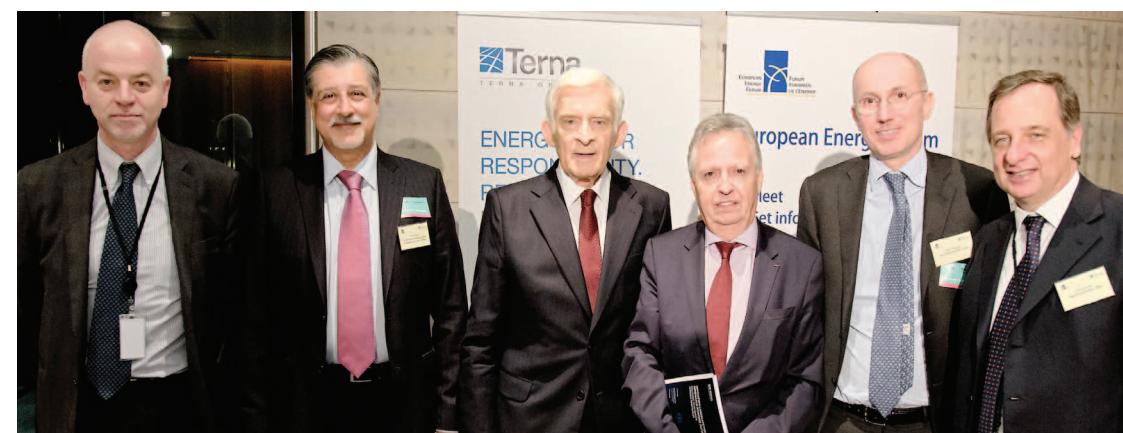
ENGIE, which hosted the event, also invited CEPI to give a complementary view on the topic developed. The speakers represented three sides particularly involved in the energy transition process: the production side, the consumer side and the European Commission.

Didier Holleaux, Executive Vice-President of ENGIE, underlined the importance of having a dispatchable source of power to back up renewables, the need to account for peak demand and carbon footprint issues due to a hasty electrification of the system. He explained ENGIE's vision on the role of gases in the transition process, touching upon various issues: the coordination between the gas and power networks, the future foreseen for hydrogen and the types of biogases needed in the energy mix to achieve a full decarbonisation. Optimistic about the possibility to achieve the 2050 decarbonisation targets in a sustainable way, he finally made some policy recommendations to help the process.

Sylvain Lhôte, Director General of CEPI (the Confederation of European Paper Industries), said during the transition phase natural gas will keep an important role in high intensity industries such as paper, petrochemicals, iron and steel. Mr Lhôte put forward the issue of market design, explaining how the aims of the energy transition could be coordinated with industries' need to remain competitive. He urged the European Institutions to take decisive steps towards a comprehensive legislative framework for the gas

market mirroring the electricity one and marked the need to consider the balancing of regional differences in terms of investments for low carbon gases, both at the world and the EU levels.

Rémi Mayet, Deputy Head of Unit of Security of Supply at DG ENER, European Commission, focused on the future role of gases such as biogas and e-gas and underlined the importance of reducing the current 55% gas import dependency to the forecasted 20% in 2030 to strengthen the EU security of supply. Mr Mayet welcomed the bilateral efforts in regional cooperation between Member States to secure gas delivery, highlighting the importance of protecting ourselves from new security challenges arising from the interdependency among European countries. He sketched three important topics for the future gas market: the issue of methane leakages, the crucial role of long-lasting infrastructure convertible and fit for hydrogen and CO₂ storage during the transition, and sector coupling to develop the complementarity between the electricity and the gas networks. He finally marked the great opportunity that the energy transition represents: the shift to a decarbonised economy can both boost the overall European growth and create millions of jobs.



Geopolitics of Energy Transition

Tuesday 18 March 2019 - European Parliament, Brussels
Hosted by Terna

Chaired by **Jerzy Buzek** - MEP EPP, Poland & President of the EEF
Adnan Z. Amin - Director-General of IRENA (The International Renewable Energy Agency)
Guido Guida - Head of Brussels office, Terna
Fabio Bulgarelli - Head of Regulatory Affairs, Terna
Dominique Ristori - Director-General for Energy, European Commission

Terna hosted the last dinner-debate of this parliamentary term and gave the opportunity to all our members to discuss the topic of Geopolitics of energy transition. Thanks to the cooperation of **Director-General for Energy Dominique Ristori**, Terna invited **Mr Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General of IRENA (the International Renewable Energy Agency)**.

Mr Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency IRENA, warned that the energy transition may have massive disruptive consequences for society if not well planned. The future energy market will have implications for millions of jobs and trillions of dollars in assets. Climate change and global warming are at the centre of concerns about global instability. Countries heavily relying on energy imports should strengthen the importance of RES in their energy mix. While new decisive energy actors are emerging in the geopolitical scenario, older players such as fossil fuel exporter countries will need to transform and diversify their production in order to survive. "There are disruptive changes coming and it is going to move fast. We need to invest in the right things today and to be aware of the challenges ahead if we want to be able to achieve the set objectives."

Mr Guido Guida, Head of Terna's Brussels Office, underlined what a fundamental year 2018 was for the EU transition towards climate-neutrality and stressed the crucial role TSOs can play in achieving the 2030 targets first and full decarbonisation after. A good transition strategy capable of granting security of supply in the fast-changing energy framework should focus on

three major aspects: (1) Infrastructure, (2) Digitalisation and (3) Innovation. The importance of a secure development has not been overlooked. The grids development and the digitalisation process must go together with transparent managing of data and protection from cybersecurity threats.

Terna's Head of Regulatory Affairs, member of the Board of ENTSO-E, Mr Fabio Bulgarelli, provided an in-depth analysis of the situation from the Italian perspective, focusing on the specific challenges and the key enablers of Italy's energy transition. The regulatory framework of the electricity market already plays a crucial role in supporting investments, while still having margin for improvement.

Director-General for Energy, Dominique Ristori recalled how much Europeans have suffered the use of energy as a weapon in the international scene through oil and gas crisis. The importance of renewables for energy security cannot be overstated. We must keep in mind that the energy transition has to be just and sustainable, without forgetting to develop fair competition and a fair market.

Energy Discussion « The EEF before and after the elections »

Tuesday 12 March 2019 - European Parliament, Strasbourg
Hosted by the EEF

Chaired by **Jerzy Buzek** - MEP EPP, Poland & President of the EEF
Neena Gill CBE - MEP S&D, UK & Vice-President of the EEF

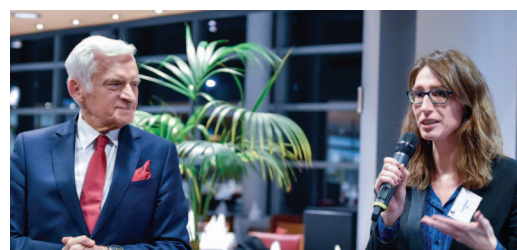
The very last event before the EP elections gathered numerous MEPs raising a glass with the Associate Members to the accomplishment of the last 5 years. All EEF members actively participated in this reception, bringing feedback on the EEF work and wishes for its future.

MEP Jerzy Buzek, President of the EEF, underlined how unusual and fantastic the EEF is with all its particular features: it is open to all MEPs, provides a tremendously important platform for information and, by welcoming all companies active in the energy sector, enhances a broad exchange of view between policymakers and the members of the industry, which results fundamental in the legislative process. Before leaving the floor to MEP Neena Gill CBE, Mr Buzek turned his attention to the future of the EEF in the new parliamentary term, sketching the topics which would be covered in the second part of 2019 dinner-debates and rising a glass to wish a prosperous future both for the MEPs and the EEF.

MEP Neena Gill CBE told the story of how she first got involved with the EEF when former EEF President Rolf Linkohr invited her for the first time in 1999. She explained how, throughout

the years, the heterogeneous speakers of the EEF events have provided her with a great deal of useful information for her work on energy poverty and sustainable finance for a green economy. She concluded by wishing the EEF to continue operating “for the lifetime of the EP and forever more” and by warmly thanking President Jerzy Buzek, EEF Director General Pascale Verheust and all the EEF team for the excellent work done over the years.

Other MEPs subsequently took the floor to share their thoughts on the EEF. Everybody remarked the key role of the Forum in bringing together MEPs, members of the industry and all relevant energy stakeholders, significantly contributing to improve information and knowledge as well as to facilitate the EP decision-making process in the energy-related field.



General Assembly and Reception « Energy is at the top of the EU agenda »

Tuesday 2 July 2019 - European Parliament, Strasbourg
Hosted by the EEF

Chaired by **Jerzy Buzek** - MEP EPP, Poland & President of the EEF
Dominique Ristori - Director-General for Energy, European Commission

The first event of the term is traditionally the election of the EEF Board by Active Members during the General Assembly. **MEP Jerzy Buzek was re-elected EEF President, Neena Gill CBE became Treasurer and Vice-President** while **Pilar del Castillo Vera and Miapetra Kumpula-Natri** were both appointed Vice-Presidents.

During his opening speech, he thanked Active as well as Associate Members for their involvement in the EEF activity, recommending they go on this way. The implementation of the energy transition represents one of the biggest challenges the EU has ever met, requiring plenty of energies and strict cooperation between all energy actors.



ity as well as competitiveness to enable a successful energy transition, and energy key players should not work in isolation. He underlined that the European Energy Forum plays a role in this context, building a bridge and establishing a permanent dialogue between the Commission, the Parliament and energy stakeholders. During the last legislation, such bridge contributed to the adoption of game changing Energy Union packages, Mr Ristori explained. He finally said he will do his utmost to make sure his successor maintains this European Commission partnership with the EEF.

The reception that followed was well attended, no doubt because of the presence of a guest of honour, **Mr Ristori, Director-General for Energy at the European Commission**. Mr Buzek congratulated him for everything he has done as Director-General for Energy and expressed gratitude for his long-lasting support for the EEF.

Mr Ristori confirmed the importance of the term ahead of us. The EU should deliver energy secu-

A special place was also given to former EEF Active Members in this event. The EEF deeply thanks them for their past cooperation and wishes them all the best for their new adventures.





State of the Energy Union: « Building on the last 5 years to shape the future » A discussion with Commissioner Arias Cañete

Monday 15 July 2019 - European Parliament, Strasbourg
Hosted by the EEF

Chaired by **Jerzy Buzek** - MEP EPP, Poland & President of the EEF
Miguel Arias Cañete - Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, European Commission

Before taking a summer break, the EEF hold a dinner-debate to offer its members as well as MEPs the chance to discuss about the past, present and future of European energy policy with **Commissioner Arias Cañete**.

According to the Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, what we are going through is not simply an energy transition, but rather an energy revolution representing a huge global challenge. With its ambitious targets and legislation, as well as the climate financial aid it provides to developing countries, the European Union presents itself as the most serious player in the international energy playing field.

The last five years of European energy policy have been instrumental to prove the EU commitment to combat climate change. The Commission worked hard to successfully establish the Energy Union, but this would not have been possible without the support and cooperation of both the Council of the European Union and the Parliament, the latter being ahead of the game and even more ambitious than the Commission itself. Member States' will to work together to implement the Paris Agreement was also reflected in the new Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and by the recent submission of their National Energy and Climate Plans. Although there is still room for improvement, this clearly signed a good first step towards the final climate-neutrality goal. The Commission long-term strategy published in November 2018 is also here to help.

Energy policy has been put in place to unite Europe by bringing territories together as well as ensuring security of supply. The Commissioner understands some Member States still have concerns about the possible economic, financial and social implications of the energy transition and acknowledges the need for further means to guarantee the fairness of such process.

The Commission has done a lot, but further work is required. Targets are meaningless without legislation, and ambitious targets call for ambitious legislation. This requires broad political support and a strong cooperation between all European Institutions. On his part, happy to have had the unique opportunity of being Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, Commissioner Cañete assured he will be active and do his best until the very final day of his mandate.





Energy Transition: exchange of views with Director-General for Energy Ditte Juul Jørgensen

Tuesday 3 September 2019 - European Parliament, Brussels
Hosted by the EEF

Chaired by **Jerzy Buzek** - MEP EPP, Poland & President of the EEF

Ditte Juul Jørgensen - Director-General for Energy, European Commission

The autumn season of events opened with a dinner-debate hosted by the EEF. This event provided EEF members, MEPs as well as other guests with the possibility to meet and discuss energy matters with recently appointed **Director-General for Energy Ditte Juul Jørgensen**.

Impressive results have been achieved during the last 5 years of energy policy, and new Director-General is ready to build on them to achieve more. DG ENER will strive to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, in line with the proposition for a Green Deal put forward by European Commission President-elect Ursula Von der Leyen.

To achieve such objective, Member States' commitment is pivotal. Ms Juul Jørgensen called for an increase in their level of ambition: despite the considerable progress made, gaps still remain in the fields of renewables and energy efficiency, which show a slowdown since 2015.

To help EU countries in their path towards the achievement of a just energy transition, the European Commission has put in place several legislative as well as non-legislative tools during the past term. To make them effective, actual implementation is required.

Energy transition constitutes a cornerstone of this particular historical period. Climate change will continue to represent a challenge both at the European and global level in the years to come. To overcome it, deep and fruitful dialogue between all energy stakeholders, MEPs and EU institutions should be strongly encouraged.

The Director-General expressed her willingness to make all necessary efforts during the next years of energy policy and ensured she will preserve and continue the fruitful cooperation of DG ENER with the EEF.

The EEF is particularly thankful to Ms Ditte Juul Jørgensen who took time to answer the numerous questions asked by the audience.



10 years of achievements after the Third Energy Package: perspectives on the #FutureEnergySystem

Tuesday 17 September 2019 - European Parliament, Strasbourg
Hosted by the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E) & the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSOG)

Chaired by **Jerzy Buzek** - MEP EPP, Poland & President of the EEF
Joachim Vanzetta - Chair of the Board of ENTSO-E
Jan Ingwersen - General Manager of ENTSOG
Alberto Pototschnig - Director of ACER (Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators)
Oliver Koch - Deputy Head of Unit of Wholesale markets, electricity & gas, DG ENER, European Commission

This EEF dinner-debate celebrated ENTSO-E, ENTSOG and ACER's first decade of existence. Since 2009, ENTSO-E and ENTSOG have been able to deliver market integration and security of supply via network codes, guidelines, market monitoring and thanks to TSOs regional cooperation.

Joachim Vanzetta, Chair of the Board of ENTSO-E, said that in the electricity market a relevant role was played by TSOs adaptation to the changing EU energy system, characterised by increasing renewable feed and the shut-down of more conventional generation sources. ENTSO-E is ready to contribute to the full decarbonisation of the energy market and the creation of a sound IT backbone. To achieve this, focus should be on implementing the existing regulation: network codes, guidelines and the Clean Energy Package.

The well-functioning of the gas market has been shown by the progressive price convergence. **Jan Ingwersen, General Manager of ENTSOG**, explained that delivering on the EU energy system is not only about TSOs and regulators: all stakeholders should be included in the final solution. ENTSOG asked for a package to decarbonise the rest of the energy sectors as well as to materialise market coupling, especially between electricity and gas: a carbon-neutral economy should not involve an "either/or" choice, but the development of gas-electricity synergies.

Alberto Pototschnig, Director of ACER, said when discussing about the energy market, the focus should be on delivering benefits to consum-

ers first. The target model for the electricity and gas sectors in Europe is the most ambitious in the world and is delivering. Further implementation of the existing legislation will enable to do even better, primarily by improving the level of capacity available to the market. Greater electrification of the system is ahead of us, due to a greater penetration of renewables. Since RES are more variable, the electricity system needs to develop more flexibility at right costs. Gas infrastructure will be key in providing the needed flexibility including new gases.

Oliver Koch, DG ENER, European Commission, agreed that implementation and cooperation should be the driving forces of the EU decarbonisation. By aiming to create a European energy market by obliging Member States to compete, the Third Energy Package was a unique piece of legislation. Such objective has required full legislation's implementation and stronger cooperation between TSOs. The minimum binding level of capacity equal to 70% for cross-zonal trade to be made available by TSOs is a good step forward. On the gas side, a future reform to create a fair playing field for new gases is possible. The implementation of existing energy market regulation is still key in delivering the Green Deal.

In need of a robust European energy system: a vision from the EU and Ukraine

Wednesday 25 September 2019 - European Parliament, Brussels
Hosted by DTEK & E.DSO

Chaired by **Professor Inese Vaidere** - MEP EPP, Latvia & Director of the EEF
Roberto Zangrandi - Secretary-General of E.DSO
Maxim Timchenko - CEO of DTEK
Stefan Moser - Head of Unit of Security of Supply, DG ENER, European Commission

This event chaired by Professor Inese Vaidere, MEP and Director of the European Energy Forum provided us with a debate on the energy transition from a broader geographical point of view: EU-Ukraine relations and the Energy Community dimension.

Making energy climate resilient involves challenges and changes. **Secretary-General of E.DSO Roberto Zangrandi** explained the annual consumption share of electricity is increasing significantly compared to other carriers, contributing to the growing complexity of the energy system. To ensure flexibility and reliability of the system, innovation, adaptive regulation as well as strong management based on the cooperation and contact between distribution companies across the EU are key. What still needs to be understood is how to confront the ongoing transformation of the demand-side participation, also bringing along new challenges linked to digitalisation and its possible further application to the energy system. Digitalisation offers potential advantages both the EU and Ukraine should learn how to leverage.

Decarbonisation, decentralisation and digitalisation lie at the basis of Ukraine's energy transition, said **Maxime Timchenko, CEO of DTEK**. Electricity generation in Ukraine is mainly based on nuclear, with renewables counting for only 2% and coal still representing a strong share of generated capacity. By 2035, Ukraine wants to increase the renewable generation share up to 25%. This could be reached through the adoption of market reforms towards market liberalisation as well as the further synchronisation of Ukraine's energy system with the EU

one, which would also enable Ukraine to contribute to the EU security of supply. Ukraine has a great natural potential for the development of RES, but the lack of grid efficiency and the scarcity of investments make it difficult to turn such potential into actual electricity generation.

Stefan Moser, Head of the Security of Supply Unit at DG ENER, European Commission reaffirmed the importance of both decarbonisation and digitalisation as main objectives to be implemented in the energy system. Regarding the former, the EU should aim to increase its current ambitious targets while helping Ukraine develop smoothly towards a modernised climate-neutral energy system. Digitalisation ensures the energy system can manage higher shares of renewables and enables consumers to become active partners in the energy system. Cyber security is also to be considered as an essential aspect of the process. In order to fulfil the climate targets, reforms are necessary not only in Ukraine but also in the EU. The Clean Energy Package set out a fit for purpose governance framework assuring dialogue both among Member States and between them and the EC. Multilateralism, solidarity and regional cooperation within and beyond the EU, also in the framework of the Energy Community, needs to remain at the basis of the energy transition.





Exchange of views with the Finnish Presidency: enabling a sustainable transition in energy and marine transport

Tuesday 1 October 2019 - European Parliament, Brussels
Hosted by Wärtsilä

Chaired by **Jerzy Buzek** - MEP EPP, Poland & President of the EEF

Riku Huttunen - Director General of the Energy Department, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland

Marco Wirén - President of Energy Solution & Executive Vice-President of Wärtsilä

Kari Hietanen - Executive Vice-President of Wärtsilä

Professor Klaus-Dieter Borchardt - Deputy Director-General for Energy, European Commission

The Finnish Presidency of the Council of the EU was the EEF guest for a lively discussion on the transition of the energy and marine transport sectors.

The Council of the EU is currently discussing how to achieve the EU climate targets. **Riku Huttunen, Director General of the Energy Department at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland**, said tools are at least as important as final objectives. Implementation of the current legislation, development of innovative technologies, smart sector integration as well as the adoption of a holistic perspective will be key to achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

Marco Wirén, President of Energy Solution and Executive Vice-President of Wärtsilä, explained achieving the EU climate objectives calls for an increase in the share of less predictable renewable energy sources (RES). Getting to a 100% renewable future is feasible, but reliable, fast-flexible back-up solutions as well as storage facilities are needed to successfully cope with RES lack of predictability before turning fossil fuels down. Embracing a holistic and system-level approach is fundamental to find the solutions best capable of granting the flexibility required. **Executive Vice-President of Wärtsilä Kari Hietanen** focused on the energy transition of the marine transport sector: optimisation based on data, energy efficiency and energy source will be the main contributors. Cooperation between different industries and technologies, a regulatory ecosystem enabling

the sharing of data, as well as the deployment of new technologies are required to optimise vessels' voyage and improve energy efficiency. As for the energy source, existing infrastructures could be used to move towards biofuels as well as synthetic gases. The decarbonisation of gas appears as a mandatory part of the journey, both in the energy and marine transport sectors.

Professor Klaus-Dieter Borchardt, Deputy Director-General for Energy, European Commission, explained the Green Deal is based on the Energy Union: actual implementation of what has been done under its umbrella is key to achieving the EU climate targets and move further. He agreed on the adoption of a holistic approach. This enables to bring together the energy transition of the production and consumption sides, as well as to understand the Green Deal should not be reduced to sustainability: energy security and competitiveness are also important dimensions to be considered. Prof. Borchardt called for a push to the decarbonisation of the marine sector and recognised gas still has a role to play both within this framework and in the energy transition at large.



Energy Transition: towards the final energy mix in 2050

Wednesday 16 October 2019 - European Parliament, Brussels
Hosted by ČEZ Group & PKEE

Chaired by **Jerzy Buzek** - MEP EPP, Poland & President of the EEF
Filip Grzegorzczuk - CEO of Tauron Polska Energia & Vice-President of PKEE
Jaroslav Míl - Special Envoy for Nuclear Energy, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic
Martin Spolc - Head of Unit of Financial technology and sustainable finance, DG FISMA, European Commission
Lukasz Kolinski - Head of Unit of Economic analysis and Financial instruments, DG ENER, European Commission

Both DG ENER and DG FISMA took part in the debate on the challenges that Central-Eastern European countries face in their transition towards a low-emission energy system, with a special focus on financing.

The CEO of Tauron Polska Energia & Vice-President of PKEE **Filip Grzegorzczuk** explained that Poland has undertaken several actions in terms of energy transition, but still has a long way to go to meet the EU climate goals. Solidarity, fairness, technical feasibility and cost-effectiveness should be the principles guiding the EU transition. Respecting them would require helping Member States bear the costs of the process, promoting initiatives enabling the deployment of low-carbon solutions in a technology-neutral manner as well as establishing burden-sharing mechanisms dedicated to the particular Member State.

The transition will result in higher electrification of the energy system, thus increasing electricity demand. Europe risks ending up divided into energy deficit and energy surplus countries, as shown by **Jaroslav Míl, Special Envoy for Nuclear Energy at the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic**. The Czech Republic believes the principle of technological neutrality would be key to avoiding this scenario. The possibility to deploy renewables differs among countries, as do climate conditions. No technological approach should be excluded from the future energy mix, provided it helps reach the EU targets.

Martin Spolc, Head of Unit of Financial technology and sustainable finance at DG FISMA, European Commission recognised the energy transition is a challenging project requiring unity. Financing sustainable growth is a crucial part of the journey, supporting economic growth in the path towards climate neutrality. The public sector alone cannot provide for all the financing aid required: private capital flows are also to be mobilised. Based on the principle of technology neutrality, the taxonomy proposed by the European Commission could be of help, facilitating dialogue between investors and corporates by bringing clarity on which economic activities are environmentally sustainable and which are not.

Lukasz Kolinski, Head of Unit of Economic analysis and Financial instrument at DG ENER, European Commission, said the importance of the Integrated National Plans for Energy and Climate should not be underestimated. These have the potential to lead to a 40% GHG reduction by 2030, although gaps still remain with reference to energy efficiency. Achieving climate neutrality will result in an extraordinary transformation of the EU energy and economy, as well as in an investment challenge being asymmetric both across countries and regions. Sector integration, novel technologies and a strong spirit of solidarity will be key to succeeding in the process.



Circular energy: how waste contributes to clean cities and mobility

22 October 2019 - European Parliament, Strasbourg
Hosted by CEWEP & Tractebel

Chaired by **Jerzy Buzek** - MEP EPP, Poland & President of the EEF

Paul De Bruycker - President of CEWEP & CEO of Indaver-group

Lorena Iglesias - Hydrogen Product Manager of Tractebel

Bart Biebuyck - Executive Director of the FCH-JU (Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking)

This dinner-debate provided us with the opportunity to discuss the contribution that Waste-to-Energy can bring to the decarbonisation of the EU economy and linking it with hydrogen production to achieve local circular opportunities.

Paul de Bruycker, CEWEP President and CEO of Indaver-group explained that according to CEWEP's calculations, even if the Circular Economy Package targets on municipal waste are reached, million tons of non-recyclable waste will still need treatment in 2035. Reducing landfilling and increasing energy efficiency will be future challenges to tackle. Waste to Energy (WtE) plants can build up the Circular economy in two different ways, firstly by turning non-recyclable waste into secure energy and extracting raw materials from the bottom ashes and secondly by dealing with unwanted organic and inorganic components. Mr De Bruycker presented two concrete projects of CEWEP illustrating how energy coming from WtE plants can be used: the industrial symbiosis in the Port of Antwerp (Belgium), consisting of a WtE plant able to deliver steam to local industries, and the generation of energy from a WtE plant located in Wuppertal (Germany), used partly for heating and cooling and partly to produce hydrogen which is then applied to mobility.

Lorena Iglesias, Hydrogen Product Manager of Tractebel, focused her speech on the role of hydrogen (H_2) in making the energy sector, mobility and industry cleaner. The Waste-to-Wheels model, whose ambition is to create a zero-emission mobility for the Waste collection at acceptable costs, can deliver economic, social and ope-

ration benefits at the local level. The advantage of this model is the possibility to avoid excessive investments in refuelling stations thanks to the proximity of the incinerator. Waste-to-wheels is being applied to a series of projects such as RE-VIVE, a European project aiming to develop high performance fuel cell refuse trucks. Ms Iglesias emphasised that hydrogen, obtained in a sustainable manner, will be a key carrier to be used locally for heating, cooling, industry, mobility and for serving the grids in a flexible and auxiliary way.

Bart Biebuyck, Executive Director of FCH-JU (Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking) asserted that in addition to the reduction of CO_2 emissions and the contribution to the economic growth, fuel cells and H_2 can be considered as an alternative solution to the dependence on hydrocarbons. Different types of plant located around the world already use fuel cells and H_2 technologies to produce heat and power intended for various applications. As a sectorial integrator, H_2 could realise symbiosis of cooling, heating, industry and transport. "We need to address H_2 as a pivotal energy carrier in EU legislation in a more ambitious way and to invest in H_2 fuel cells and H_2 related technologies in order to permit not only the abatement of CO_2 emissions, but also the achievement of additional annual revenue and the creation of millions of jobs by 2050."

EU Green Deal: gas infrastructure as an energy carrier on the road to 2050

Tuesday 12 November 2019 - European Parliament, Brussels
Hosted by Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE), GRTgaz & SNAM

Chaired by **Jerzy Buzek** - MEP EPP, Poland & President of the EEF
Jean-Marc Leroy - GIE (President of Gas Infrastructure Europe)
Thierry Trouvé - CEO of GRTgaz
Camilla Palladino - Executive Vice-President Corporate Strategy and Investor Relations of SNAM
Jane Amilhat - Acting Head of Unit of Networks and Regional Initiatives, DG ENER, European Commission

The EEF hosts explored the evolving role of gas infrastructure showing how it could serve the energy transition.

President of GIE (President of Gas Infrastructure Europe), Jean-Marc Leroy, stated EU gas infrastructure operators are committed to meeting EU climate targets both by exploiting all the advantages of natural gas and by welcoming new technologies. Relying on renewable gases and blue hydrogen in 2050 will be cheaper compared to a full electrification scenario, while at the same time guaranteeing security of supply thanks to gas storage capacity. The development of the green gas industry requires an evolution of existing regulation, to be deployed with transparency, based on technology neutrality and acknowledging regional differences.

Thierry Trouvé, CEO of GRTgaz, explained that the existence of renewable gases and new value chains is already a reality today. In France, there is increasing demand to connect biomethane projects to existing gas infrastructure, while reverse flows from the local network to the national transmission grid have been organised to manage biomethane surplus. Thermal and hydro-thermal gasification, Power-to-Gas as well as different technologies to integrate hydrogen into the existing gas network could all contribute to meet decarbonisation.

Camilla Palladino, Executive Vice-President Corporate Strategy and Investor Relations of SNAM said gas infrastructure is crucial both in covering season peaks and in allowing seasonal storage. In the company's green gas value chain vision, biomethane plants are connected to the network, while work is being made to install gas compressors in server stations to support Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) mobility. Touching upon hydrogen, Ms Palladino explained that the introduction of a mix of 5% hydrogen and methane in Contursi transmission network showed the gas grid will be ready to blend hydrogen and natural gas.

Jane Amilhat, Acting Head of Unit of Networks and Regional Initiatives at DG ENER, European Commission, said the use of natural gas to balance renewables and in sectors hard to electrify should go hand in hand with gas decarbonisation. The decarbonisation of gas infrastructure will happen under the trans-European energy networks (TEN-E) regulation and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). A revision of the former is likely to take place to allow gas infrastructure to be ready for renewable gases, with special focus put on the sustainability criteria. Cooperation between all stakeholders will be key to managing this transformation.





Sector integration: gas driving the energy transition

Tuesday 26 November 2019 - European Parliament, Strasbourg
Hosted by Eurogas, Uniper & Wintershall Dea

Chaired by **Jerzy Buzek** - MEP EPP, Poland & President of the EEF

James Watson - Secretary General of Eurogas

René Schoof - Head of Hydrogen of Uniper

Klaus Langemann - Senior Vice-President in charge for Technology and Innovation of Wintershall Dea

Łukasz Lisicki - Wholesale markets electricity and gas, DG ENER, European Commission

The EEF closed its series of events for 2019 with a dinner-debate on gas that was highly informative and topical in view of the upcoming European Commission programme.

James Watson, Eurogas Secretary General, explained that gas will play a strategic role in the decarbonisation of important sectors such as heating, transport and industrial activities. He insisted on the necessity of establishing a clear and common gas terminology, crucial to enhance the legislative and decision making-process. Considering that only 18% of the electricity consumed today in Europe is renewable, gaseous solutions (natural gas today and renewable and decarbonised gases in the future) can contribute to meet the 2030 and 2050 targets. According to Eurogas, hydrogen is expected to be massively developed and applied to tomorrow's economy.

Klaus Langemann, Senior Vice-President in charge for Technology and Innovation of Wintershall Dea underlined the importance of hydrogen generated from natural gas as it could play a role in the long-term. Available in large quantities, it could additionally be applied to current EU infrastructures. It is necessary to keep European wind sector active and competitive on a global level; however, he expressed the necessity to explore other options such as steam reforming - a mature project - or methane pyrolysis, that is still in a research stage but already more energy efficient than electrolysis.

René Schoof, Head of Hydrogen of Uniper, illustrated that one of the main advantages of the sectorial integration is that it exploits current EU energy infrastructure: billions of undergrounds storage facilities are available to store natural gas whereas complete electrification would require significant investments in infrastructure. The development of electrolyzer and Power-to-gas systems would enable the production of green hydrogen for which the industry and the technologies are ready. He presented "STORE&GO", a project funded by Horizon 2020, through which Uniper is developing new methane technologies to produce synthetic natural gas out of wind and solar energy.

Łukasz Lisicki, Wholesale markets electricity and gas, DG ENER, European Commission, defined sector integration as the most cost-efficient option taking into account the security of supply dimension. According to the EC's 8 scenarios, natural gas will remain an important part of EU energy supply even if we face a decrease in its indigenous production. Sector integration needs to be implemented and the new potential framework should be extremely flexible to remove possible regulatory barriers and provide market-based solutions. Fully and correctly implementing gas Network Codes in all Member States remains also a priority. DG ENER is engaging numerous stakeholders and conducting several studies in order to evaluate the current gas market design and its adaptability to the future.

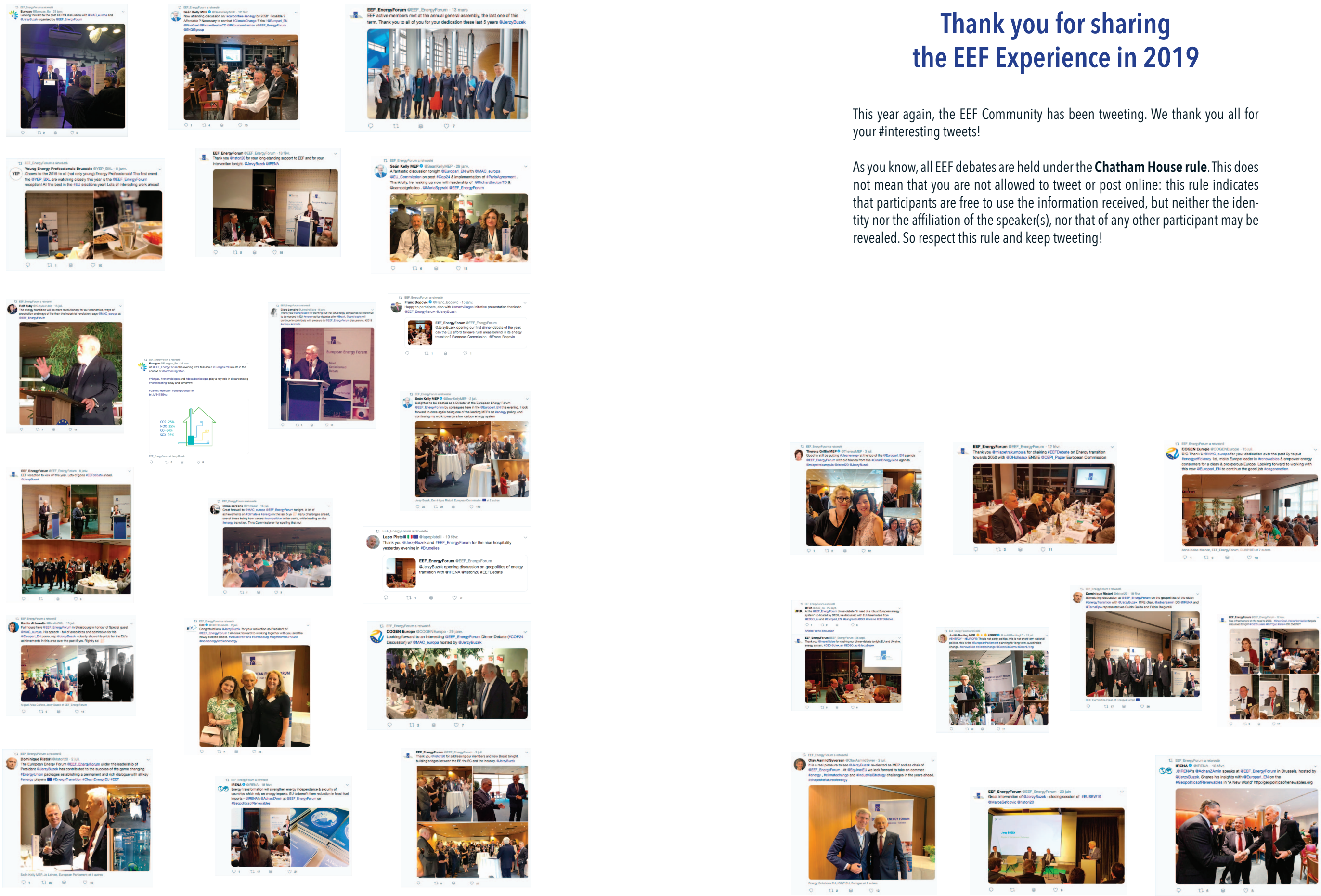


Stay connected

Thank you for sharing the EEF Experience in 2019

This year again, the EEF Community has been tweeting. We thank you all for your #interesting tweets!

As you know, all EEF debates are held under the **Chatham House rule**. This does not mean that you are not allowed to tweet or post online: this rule indicates that participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant may be revealed. So respect this rule and keep tweeting!



Keep in touch

Along with the EEF team, the website helps you have timely access to information regarding the Forum's events, members, mission, and governance, as well as to find the contacts needed to get in touch with us.

Every EEF event has a dedicated section on the website where you will be able to find both some pictures and the speakers' presentations. Pictures help keep good memory of the discussion, while presentations enable you to complete your notes.

Publications

Information Bulletin

The EEF Bulletin presents the EEF upcoming events and summaries of past events. It also informs the readers on the recent changes within Associate and Active Members.

Activity Report

By gathering detailed information and pictures of the events, the Activity Report provides a comprehensive overall view of all aspects of the EEF activity throughout the year.

Leaflet

The EEF leaflet contains a description of our mission and values, as well as an explanation of our activities and governance.

Booklet

Every year, the EEF publishes a booklet containing the contact details and a short description of the activity of each Associate Member.



Photos debates in Strasbourg: Thierry Routier Photography; Romance Lasfargues Photography; Martin Itty - www.pixitty.com
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