



FEBRUARY 2017

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Upcoming events



6 February 2017

DINNER DEBATE IN BRUSSELS

Brexit is coming: what are the implications for the EU and UK energy markets?



14 February 2017

DINNER DEBATE IN STRASBOURG

Clean Energy Package: the way forward for EU energy consumers?



28 February 2017

DINNER DEBATE IN BRUSSELS

Circular Economy meets Energy Union



14 March 2017

DINNER DEBATE IN STRASBOURG

Empowering Energy Consumers: The Role of On-site Generation

EEF Events

EEF New Year reception

17 January, Strasbourg

Event hosted by the European Energy Forum



In the framework of the first plenary session of 2017, the EEF invited its members to a New Year cocktail with its President, Professor Jerzy Buzek. This offered the opportunity to Active and Associate Members to get together and informally discuss themes high on the EU agenda.

The European Energy Forum resumed its activities in 2017 with a cocktail reception which was meant to be an informal gathering to thank Active and Associate Members for their support during the past year. Representatives of associations, energy and energy-intensive industries as well as MEPs, took part in the reception chaired by the EEF President, **Professor Jerzy Buzek**.

Professor Buzek expressed his gratitude for the implication of EEF members, who contribute to the organisation of the different EEF discussions. Their commitment, as he recalled, is key to ensuring the success of these debates, which are a platform for the exchange of views and ideas among energy stakeholders.

Taking advantage of the relaxed atmosphere of this informal gathering, Professor Buzek gave the floor to each of the attendees, who provided their feedback and remarks about the discussions and about the role of the EEF as a place for dialogue and information on energy issues. **Pascale Verheust**, Director General of the EEF, agreed on the importance of getting the support from members and took the occasion to thank Professor Buzek for his involvement in the implementation of the activities organised by the Forum.

The reception was held in Strasbourg during the first plenary session of the year, shortly before the election of the new President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani.

EEF Events

The Energy Union: an evening discussion with Vice-President Šefčovič

24 January, Brussels

Dinner-debate hosted by the European Energy Forum



To mark the beginning of 2017, the EEF had the honour to welcome Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of the Energy Union, to a high-level dinner-debate to share some thoughts with EEF members on the progress made towards building the Energy Union.

As 2016 was the year of delivery, 2017 will be “the year of implementation”. With the recent publication of the “Clean Energy for All Europeans” package, “the European Commission has already delivered 90% of the actions promised as regards the Energy Union” Vice-President Šefčovič pointed out. The proposals are now on the table and will need to be approved by the European Parliament and the Council.

The package consists of 8 legislative and 3 non-legislative proposals with the objective to deliver on 3 key priorities: put energy efficiency first, keep the EU’s global leadership on renewables and empower European energy consumers. In his speech, the Vice-President highlighted the following points:

- As a result of an impact assessment process, the **European Commission** is proposing an energy efficiency target of 30% binding at EU level by 2030.
- With the EU starting discussions to reduce emissions in the non-ETS sectors, the package proposes a smart financing for smart buildings initiatives to spur investments in more smarter and efficient buildings.
- Vice-President Šefčovič also stressed the necessity to restore the market signals and lower energy prices for final consumers in order to improve the energy competitiveness of the EU businesses and industry.
- Finally, 2017 will seek to boost alternative fuels in transport with two legislative packages mobility.

After his speech, **Vice-President Šefčovič** answered to challenging questions from a full house of EEF members bringing together MEPs and industry representatives.

News from EEF Members

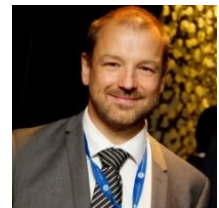
Laurent Schmitt, new Secretary General of ENTSO-E

EEF Associate Member

Laurent Schmitt started his four year mandate as Secretary General of **ENTSO-E** last January. He succeeds Mr Konstantin Staschus, who was not seeking a third re-election.

Prior to this, Mr Schmitt worked as Global SmartGrid Strategy Leader at General Electric. With a background in power engineering (Supelec) and holding an Executive MBA from INSEAD, he has been leading Business Development and innovation for Alstom/GE.

The new head of ENTSO-E is a member of several strategic industry committees working on Smart Grids and contributes to a number of expert advisory taskforces to the European Commission on the topics of Generation, Grid and Storage applications.



Laurent Schmitt
Secretary General of
ENTSO-E

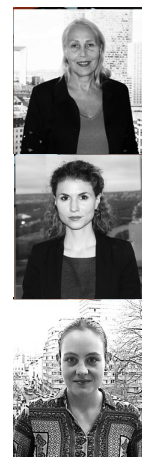
RTE opens a new office in Brussels

EEF Associate Member

RTE, the French electricity transmission system operator headquartered in Paris, has recently opened a new office in Brussels. RTE's EU Office is located close to the European Parliament.

The Brussels team is headed by **Lise Deguen**, Deputy Director of EU Affairs and main representative of RTE to the EEF. Ms Deguen combines her responsibilities in Brussels with her work in the headquarters. Marine Binet, EU Public Affairs Advisor, will be permanently based in the Brussels office, assisted by Naomi Chevillard, Manager of EU Public Affairs.

RTE is an independent subsidiary of EDF. It is a public service company operating, maintaining and developing the high and extra high voltage network in France.



RTE
EU Office Team