

EEF INFORMATION BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2019 EDITION



COMING UP IN 2019



Roads to an affordable energy transition towards 2050

12 February 2019 - STRASBOURG

Didier Holleaux - Member of the Executive Committee of ENGIE

Sylvain Lhôte - Director General of CEPI (Confederation of European Paper Industries)

Speaker from the Commission (tbc)



Geopolitics of Energy Transition

18 February 2019 - BRUSSELS

Mr Adnan Amin - CEO of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Mr Dominique Ristori - Director-General for Energy at the European Commission

Mr Fabio Bulgarelli - Head of Regulatory Affairs, TERNA

Mr Guido Guida - Head of Brussels office, TERNA

New year reception 2019

Tuesday 8 January 2019, Brussels

Hosted by EEF

2019 is 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, at the same time, raise a glass together to another rewarding and fruitful year ahead. Organised in an informal and elegant atmosphere, the new year cocktail reception gave, once again, the chance to each of EEF Member to bring his contribution and feedback on the Forum.



In his opening speech **Jerzy Buzek, President of the EEF**, outlined the importance of the European elections ahead, focusing on the new possibilities that such renewed EP will bring to the Forum as well as on the crucial events already in the EEF agenda for the beginning of 2019. 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 their members, stakeholders and beyond.

Many of the guests picked up the microphone next: **MEP Jo Leinen**, Germany, S&D group and longstanding member of the EEF, expressed his gratitude for being part of such an important organisation and highlighted how the EEF has particularly flourished under the chairmanship of Mr Buzek. **MEP Peter Kouroumbashev**, Bulgaria, S&D group, who joined the EEF more recently, congratulated for the outstanding job done so far in helping legislator and policymakers to "*understand what needs to be done*". **Megan Richards, Director of Energy Policy in DG Energy** thanked the forum for the important role it plays in the stakeholder's dialogue, highlighting the value that the European Commission gives to the view of the industry.

Many praises for the job done so far and wishes for keeping up EEF's brilliant work were underlined by different guests, who also took the occasion to thank the Forum for the ongoing support that it provides. This first meeting of the EEF concluded with an eager look at the future and the confident prospect of another fruitful year of debates, exchanges and reflections on energy policies blossoming ahead.



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

Tuesday 15 January 2019, Strasbourg

Hosted by SHV Energy

The EEF opened its 2019 dinner-debate season with a discussion hosted by SHV Energy on the position of rural areas in the energy transition. It was the occasion to focus the discussion on the specific challenges faced by rural energy users and to exchange views on the decarbonisation potential of these regions and the policy framework needed.

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



Ilias Vazaios – Managing Partner at Ecuity Consulting presented a study focusing on European markets where oil and gas have a significant penetration, questioning the decarbonisation of rural buildings, considering what could be the most cost-effective solutions to achieve the transition. He reminded us that the European Commission recognised that buildings will play a major role in achieving deep decarbonisation of the Economy. Up to 90% of the buildings of 2050 are already build which underline the fact that the policies needs to focus on the improvement of already existing buildings in order to achieve significant changes. Challenges faced are emphasized in rural areas as building are older and these regions are not connected to the grids. « We need to consider various solutions ». Belgium, United Kingdom, Denmark and France already have political ambition towards phasing out oil and coal, which shows that the political debate is more than just a



theoretical plan. 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 decarbonisation and air quality".

Tudor Constantinescu – Principal Advisor to the Director General – reminded us of the cohesion policy launched by the Commission, saying that "*we should always speak about clean and fair energy transition*". These rural areas which represent 28% of the EU population "*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 face a higher risk of poverty than urban areas. Numerous citizens in Europe are in risk of energy poverty which is unacceptable. He presented some projects of the Commission which will support the transition such as the development of Renewable Energy Communities and the Covenant of Mayors which will guide rural areas in their transition.

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

A post COP24 discussion with Commissioner Arias Cañete

Tuesday 29 January 2019, Brussels

Hosted by EEF

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 in climate action and in the energy field.

The event, hosted by the EEF itself, has seen an impressive turn out of many different guests. MEPs, industry representatives, members of the Permanent Representations in the EU all participated in a fruitful discussion on the present and the future of European Union energy policy, each of them bringing value to the conversation with their specific individual and different expertise. **EEF president and MEP Jerzy Buzek**, chairman of the evening, took the opportunity in his opening speech to thank the Commissioner for his great work over the years and asked his opinions and advices on the EU energy policies in the years to come.

Commissioner Arias Cañete highlighted how ambitious and forward-looking the targets for climate action that the EU set for itself are, and how impressive is the fact that, starting with the signing of the Paris agreement in 2015, all the pieces of legislation needed to implement such aspiring targets have been put in place. The importance that such legislation will play in the very next future, for both the implementation, in the hands of the upcoming Commission after the elections, as well as for EU worldwide allies who refer to it as the one with a leading role in pushing forward climate action.

The Commissioner took time to analyse progresses made by the EU for achieving the climate goals in 2020, underlying how important it is that a proper climate action is interlinked with a social and fair energy transition in order to leave no region behind, especially those that will be more severely hit by the changes.

The discussion that followed has developed along the lines drawn by the Commissioner himself. Many of the guests asked questions and debated over the future of the energy union, the role of the next Commission for the implementation of the legislative framework and the expectations for different energy sectors.



In particular, one representative of the gas sector brought forward concern about the future of the gas industry and the wish that gas would be still part of the mix into the picture of sustainable energy. The mission to create a substantial gas market mirroring the electrical one is believed to be one of the more interesting challenges for the next term of office. As the debate articulated throughout the evening, heterogeneous topics were LNG, diversification of energy supply, hydrogen and the role of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) among the others. Much was said also on the international dimension of climate action, well behind the European frontiers: the role of China as a driver for innovation in the battery industry, as well as on the electrification process; the positive expectation on the next COP meeting in Chile next November; the possibility to counter carbon emission on a global scale; the synchronisation of the electricity network Ukraine; the future role of nuclear energy.

At the end of the dinner, **MEP and Bureau member of the EEF Julie Girling** had the chance to express, on behalf of the Forum as well, her gratitude towards Commissioner Arias Cañete not only for his presence in this particular interesting and fruitful debate, but for the years of collaboration and great work done so far; wishing him the best for his future ahead.

ON OUR MEMBERS' SIDE

The European LPG Association is now Liquid Gas Europe



The European LPG Association – until now known as AEGPL – has renamed itself as Liquid Gas Europe. Liquid Gas Europe's membership is composed by national LPG associations, the main European LPG distributors, and equipment manufacturers. With the support of its working groups of industry experts, Liquid Gas Europe is actively involved in concrete initiatives and programs to ensure the sustainable, safe and efficient development of LPG in Europe. The Association is also celebrating its 50th Anniversary, having been created in 1968

More information about the activities of the Association and the LPG European industry in general can be found at Liquid Gas Europe's new website: www.liquidgaseurope.eu

Warm welcome to Luca Papini



This month, Luca started his 3 months "Erasmus +" experience. He will work as an intern on EEF events and on EU legislation. Luca is Italian and is completing a postgraduate in International Relations and European Studies at the University of Florence. We wish him a fruitful experience in the energy world.

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