

January 2018



Best wishes for the New Year!

M	TU	W	TH	FR	SA	SU
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<u>22</u>	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

22 January 2017

RECEPTION IN BRUSSELS



2018 - Looking Ahead to a New Year in Energy Policy

6 February 2017

DINNER DEBATE IN STRASBOURG



Urban Air Quality and traffic emissions: How Euro6d and emission control technology will address the problem

20 February 2017

DINNER DEBATE IN BRUSSELS



Research and innovation: an evening discussion with Commissioner Moedas

EEF Events

Citizens' Energy Drives Local Economies - Current Practice and Clean Energy Package Perspective

6 December, Brussels

Lunch-debate hosted by the EEF



The Commission's proposal for the Directive on the Internal Market for Electricity foresees the adoption of an umbrella term for citizens' energy initiatives – Local Energy Communities (LECs) – as well as a set of basic provisions. This concept can become a crucial tool to empower energy consumers, although it has not been one of the most debated in ongoing negotiations. The last EEF debate of 2017 was initiated by DG Energy to discuss the legal framework around the LECs.

MEP **Adam Gierek** welcomed **Michał Kurtyka** and **Andrzej Piotrowski**, Polish Deputy Ministers for Energy and invited Director **Klaus-Dieter Borchardt** to make introductory statements. "LECs were not made up in the Clean Energy Package, they already exist", he said. They can empower consumers, create jobs and directly benefit local economies. The lunch-debate was an opportunity to showcase the achievements of three LECs with different structure, size and scope of activities.

Sławomir Kopeć presented the Polish energy cluster *Zielone Podhale* established in 2016. The cluster is a cooperation network that builds on a broad range of partners including municipalities, counties, municipal and energy companies, a regional hospital and academia. It provides a structure for cooperation which can adapt to changing circumstances. Deputy Minister Piotrowski explained this flexibility makes possible the association of different actors and prevents domination by large corporations within the cluster.

Coopérnico, Portugal's first renewable energy cooperative, opted for a model that engages citizens and companies and is based on citizens' ownership. The founder, **Nuno Brito Jorge**, explained that it puts citizens in the first place and ensures they receive reasonable return on the investments they make through the cooperative. In addition, they collaborate with educational and socio-economic institutions.

Karl-Willi Beck and **Marco Krasser** from the Municipality of Wunsiedel, Germany, introduced how Wunsiedel has relied on renewable energy to build up decentralized energy production and support local employment. In 2016, Wunsiedel was awarded "Energy Municipality of the Month" by the Renewable Energies Agency.

These successful initiatives show that *"there is no universal model for local energy communities"*, Mr Kopeć underlined. *"The optimal solution depends on local circumstances."*

News from EEF members

MEP Seán Kelly joins the EEF



MEP Seán Kelly

Seán Kelly is a member of the European Parliament for Ireland South since 2009. As a member of Fine Gael, he is part of the European People's Party.

In the European Parliament, Mr Kelly sits on the ITRE Committee and is a member of the Delegation for Relations with Iran. In 2014, he was honoured MEP of the Year for Digital Agenda. Two years before, he received the same prize for Research and Innovation.

He is a former President of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) and former Executive Chairman of the Irish Institute of Sport.

MEP Jaromír Kohlíček joins the EEF



MEP Jaromír Kohlíček

Jaromír Kohlíček is a Czech politician and Member of the European Parliament for the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia. He is part of the European United Left–Nordic Green Left party group in the European Parliament.

Mr Kohlíček is Vice-Chair of the ITRE Committee. He is also member of the delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee and the delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly.

He was member of Lower Chamber of Czech Republic Parliament from 1998 to 2004, when he was elected to European Parliament.

He holds a Master Degree from the Institute of Chemical Technology of Prague.

News from EEF members

MEP Sven Schulze joins the EEF



MEP Sven Schulze

Sven Schulze is a member of the Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU), which is part of the European People's Party (EPP), since 1997. He was elected MEP in 2014 and he sits on the ITRE Committee since July 2017. From 2014 to 2017, he was part of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs.

Apart from his membership at the ITRE Committee, Mr Schulze is also a member of the Delegation for relations with the Mashreq Countries and the Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean.

Mr Schulze graduated in Engineering at the Clausthal University of Technology, Germany.