



September 2017

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Upcoming events



4 September 2017

DINNER DEBATE IN BRUSSELS

Advanced biofuels from waste and residues: the key to achieving ambitious and sustainable transport decarbonisation with RED II



12 September 2017

DINNER DEBATE IN STRASBOURG

Energy Efficiency First – Insights from the chemical industry



3 October 2017

DINNER DEBATE IN STRASBOURG

Securing energy supply with trans-border electricity flows: the view of Central European electricity TSOs



11 October 2017

DINNER DEBATE IN BRUSSELS

Energy market design: keep all doors open to innovation

EEF Events

Greening the gas grid: the biomethane opportunity

4 July, Strasbourg

EEF dinner-debate hosted by GRDF



The Clean Energy Package focuses mainly on electricity, but it is important to create full compatibility between the electricity and the gas markets. The last dinner-debate before the summer break looked at the different advantages of the use of biomethane as an energy source in the current context of energy transition, based on the experience and research of GRDF, the largest European Distribution System Operator (DSO).

Biomethane could be seen as a way to produce green energy, but also as a means to secure gas production. This renewable gas comes from the purification of biogas produced from agricultural, municipal or industrial waste. The use of biomethane has therefore different advantages for the transition towards a more sustainable energy market, according to **Edouard Sauvage**, Director General of GRDF. This energy source can be directly injected into the already existing gas grid and it can also be stored and used as back up for other intermittent sources. Another advantage of biomethane is its use on the heating and the transport sectors, which both have particularly high levels of emissions. Rural areas can also benefit from the production of biomethane, as this energy source can be produced in farms.

The Clean Energy Package tries to promote the use of green gas, such as biomethane. **Mark van Stiphout**, Deputy Head of Unit for New energy technologies, innovation and clean coal at DG Energy highlighted the opportunities of biomethane in the context of the new package and, more specifically, the 'Renewable Energy Directive'. One of the things highlighted by the package is to achieve a fair deal for consumers. Decentralised solutions of energy production are gaining importance and biomethane could be part of these alternatives. That could lead to new business models and innovative services, according to the Commission representative.

The proposal of the Commission for a new Renewable Energy Directive covers all bioenergy uses, including biomethane, to minimise the risk of the negative environmental impact and deliver emissions savings. This use of bioenergies however, as stressed by Mr van Stiphout, has to be linked to the circular economy and not be looked at in isolation.

News from members

New representative of SHV to the EEF

SHV Energy



*Esther Busscher,
Head of Public Affairs of SHV*

SHV Energy has appointed **Esther Busscher** as its new Head of Group Public Affairs to represent the group of specialised energy companies in Brussels towards EU institutions and stakeholders. She is also responsible for developing the group's Public Affairs strategy and leading its global Public Affairs Community. SHV Energy is a family-owned multinational organisation whose companies provide people and businesses with decentralised personalised energy solutions and services.

Being active in EU Brussels for over 14 years, Esther Busscher is very familiar with EU affairs and energy policies. She spearheaded the energy team of a leading Brussels Public Affairs agency – advising clients in the oil and gas industry, and developing pan-European issue campaigns and advocacy programs. Mrs. Busscher also led the Brussels office of a leading communications agency.

Dennis Kredler: main contact of Dow to the EEF



*Director of European Union
Affairs and Head of the Brussels
Office of The Dow Chemical
Company*

Dennis Kredler is now the main contact to Dow to the EEF. He was appointed as Director of European Union Affairs and Head of the Brussels Office of **The Dow Chemical Company** in February 2015. He is accountable for Dow's interactions with the EU institutions and for Dow's high level relationships and public policy advocacy with the EU.

Prior to this appointment, he spent three years as Director General of the European Retail Round Table (ERRT), a group of Chief Executives of Europe's leading retail companies with operations around the world, and ten years with the European Round Table of Industrialists (ERT), a forum of Chairmen and Chief Executives of European multinationals from a wide range of manufacturing and technological sectors, most recently as Executive Director.

He started his career in Brussels in the representative office of Deutsche Telekom and also previously worked for Railtrack plc in the United Kingdom and as a freelance journalist.

Highlight

Estonia takes over the Presidency of the Council of the EU



Estonia is holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from July to December 2017. ITRE Committee members welcomed Kadri Simson, Estonia's Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure on 11 July to discuss the ambitions and priorities of the Presidency.

The proposals of the **Clean Energy Package** will be at the core of Estonia's efforts on the energy side. The Estonian Presidency is committed to advance negotiations on these proposals with a particular attention to the Electricity Market Design and Energy Efficiency. Policy-makers will come together on 19 September in Tallinn for a high-level conference on Europe's Future Electricity Market. The Presidency also expects to open two trilogues on energy efficiency with the European Parliament to reach an agreement on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive by 2018. On energy infrastructure, Estonia would like to start discussions with the Member States on imports of gas from Russia and the mandate to negotiate with Russia on Nord Stream 2.

Siim Kiisler, Environment Minister of Estonia, met with **ENVI Committee** on 11 July as well. On the environment side, the Presidency wants to make substantial progress on climate policy including the reform of the Emissions Trading System (ETS), aviation ETS and the effort-sharing regulation (ESR) for the non-ETS sectors. Estonia also hopes to conclude the trilogues on the waste legislative proposals.