

EEF Information Bulletin



Editorial

A new package and a busy year ahead

It's hard to believe that the year has gone so quickly, once again. Traditionally, in December, we tend to look back and take stock of the past year. This December, however, I would like to propose that we do not look back but rather focus on the future that lies ahead of us.

Indeed, the recently published clean energy package promises busy years to come. Lots of discussions will be needed to understand all aspects of the package. This is why, to start the year 2017, the European Energy Forum will have the privilege to welcome Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič and offer its members a unique opportunity to discuss with him the numerous topics included in this package.

Earmark the date in your agendas!

Pascale Verheust
Director General

Upcoming events

17 January 2017

Dinner-debate in Strasbourg

Energy market design: Keep all doors open to innovation

At the invitation of **Eurogas**



24 January 2017

Dinner-debate in Brussels

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

At the invitation of **the EEF**



6 February 2017

Dinner-debate in Brussels

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

At the invitation of **National Grid**



14 February 2017

Dinner-debate in Strasbourg

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

At the invitation of **UFE (Union Française de l'Electricité)**





EEF events

Gas and Renewables: the right combination for a sustainable future?

22 November, Strasbourg

Dinner-debate hosted by IOGP, GIE, Eurogas & GERG



This dinner-debate organized during the GasWeek 2016 brought together four EEF Members representing the whole European gas value chain, from exploration to consumer issues. Through a comprehensive approach, an international panel of experts explored how gas and renewables can be combined to achieve the energy transition.



Jo Peters, Board Member of the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP), took a close look at potential synergies between gas and wind. Gas platforms in the North Sea can serve as hosting transformers and distribute electricity from offshore wind farms. In the future, excess energy from wind farms could be converted into gas and transported through the existing gas transmission network. **François-Régis Mouton**, GasNaturally Chairman, identified Power-to-Gas, the conversion of electrical power into hydrogen or methane, as “the missing link between gas and renewables”.



In turn, **Torben Brabo** representing Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE) put emphasis on the benefits of natural gas in terms of storage capacities and transport cost. In the view of GIE, the integration of biogas in the existing gas infrastructure is also an option to be further developed in the future. **François-Xavier Dugripon**, representative of Eurogas, added that innovation in biogas can help pave the way to decentralized waste management by transforming waste into green power locally. Gas will be increasingly “renewable, clean and local”, he said.



The final presentation by **Tom Howes**, Deputy Head of Unit for Economic Analysis and Financial Instruments at DG Energy, put into perspective detailed predictions about the declining domestic production of gas and the growing share of gas in power generation. This observation raised the question of investments and launched a dynamic debate on subsidies and drivers for investment between industry representatives and European legislators.



EEF events

Poland – from a ‘gas island’ to the European gas hub?

29 November, Brussels

Dinner-debate hosted by PGNiG



The EEF closed the calendar of events for 2016 with a discussion on gas supplies in Poland hosted by **PGNiG**, a Polish company whose core business includes the exploration and production of natural gas.



The discussion put on the table the dependence of the CEE region (Central Eastern Europe) on Russia as a dominant supplier. According to PGNiG, this situation has resulted in disruptions in gas deliveries, prices higher than for Western Europe and increased uncertainty to guarantee energy security. The region is now looking to secure affordable gas supplies to satisfy its demand with projects such as the Northern Gateway, which involves the construction of an off-shore pipeline (Baltic Pipe), its connection via Denmark to Norway and an extension to Poland.



As explained by **Piotr Woźniak**, President of PGNiG and keynote speaker of the dinner-debate, this initiative would be complementary to the already existing infrastructure projects conducting Russian gas: Nord Stream which comes directly from Russia, Yamal which involves transmission through Poland and Brotherhood which flows through Ukraine. The Commission is now readjusting the gas capacity allocated to these different pipelines.



Stefan Moser, Head of Unit for Security of Supply at DG Energy, who took the floor after PGNiG's presentation, recognised that with a declining EU gas production, diversification and cooperation between Member States and the Energy Community is key to reinforcing security of supply. In this sense, the Northern Gateway would become a game changer, together with the development of other infrastructure projects and the exploitation of LNG terminals.

The interventions from the speakers opened the floor to numerous remarks, comments and questions from the audience. The lively debate which followed the presentations was a proof of the sensitivity of the topic addressed, which concerned gas supplies, solidarity among Member States and relations with neighbouring countries.



News from EEF Members

MEP Davor Škrlec joins the EEF



Davor Škrlec

The EEF is pleased to inform you that Mr Škrlec has joined its Active Membership.

Davor Škrlec has been a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) for Croatia since July 2014, when he joined the Greens/EFA coalition after the European elections. He is a permanent member of ENVI Committee and Member of the Delegation for Relations with Canada.

Apart from his responsibilities in the European Parliament, Mr Škrlec is also vice chairman of Croatian green party ORaH (Sustainable Development of Croatia) and a professor at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing at the University of Zagreb.

His field of research includes the planning and operation of power systems, with a focus on renewable energy and smart grids. Furthermore he is holding the title of President of the National Smart Grid Technology Platform and he is a National Expert on Smart Grids.

Previously, he was Assistant Minister for Environment and Nature in the Croatian Government from January to July 2012.

His major fields of interest include sustainable energy, transport and circular economy.

Source: European Green Party