

EEF Information Bulletin



Editorial

Opening the year of events with Commissioner Arias Cañete

The **European Energy Forum** welcomed the New Year with a special guest. **Miguel Arias Cañete**, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, was the keynote speaker of the first dinner-debate of 2016, hosted by the EEF.

One month after the COP21 in Paris, that he attended as one of the main negotiators on behalf of the EU, the Commissioner came to the forum to discuss the outcome of the Paris talks and the work ahead on energy and climate issues.

EEF members were offered a unique opportunity to have an open debate with the Commissioner. Mr Arias Cañete was at ease discussing with participants, listening to their remarks and answering their questions. His attitude contributed to the lively atmosphere of the dinner and the involvement of the participants in the discussion. A great success for the EEF to start 2016 in perfect shape!

Pascale Verheust
Director General

Upcoming events

2016, 2 February

Dinner-debate in Strasbourg

Climate Demons or Climate Gods: the coal industry stakes its future

At the invitation of **Euracoal**



2016, 23 February

Dinner-debate in Brussels

Electricity Market reform: more renewables, more security of supply and at competitive cost

At the invitation of **Iberdrola**



2016, 16 March

Dinner-debate in Brussels

Securing Energy Supplies: Europe's position on the global stage

At the invitation of **eni**

2016, 20 April

Dinner-debate in Brussels

A fit-for-purpose ACER and ENTSO governance in the framework of the Energy Union

At the invitation of **E-Control**





EEF events

Energy and Climate: a post-COP21 discussion with Commissioner Arias Cañete

12 January, Brussels

Dinner-debate hosted by the EEF



Climate is now a central topic of energy discussions. As such, and following the COP21 negotiations last December, the Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, **Miguel Arias Cañete**, visited the forum to share with EEF members some conclusions from the Paris talks and the work ahead to reduce emissions.



COP21 has put on the table a global agreement that will enter into force after being ratified by 55 countries that account for at least 55% of global emissions. It is the result, recalled the Commissioner, “of years of hard work” and the EU has made “a strong contribution to this agreement”, which is, he stressed, “the first ever global legally binding climate deal”. This agreement sets out a long-term global objective to reduce emissions and keep global temperatures below 2°C, ideally 1.5°C. As the Commissioner explained, this deal sends clear signals for investors and other stakeholders that the clean energy transition is a reality. Another important achievement is the revision, every five years, of the targets set by the different parties as of 2023. Strengthening transparency requirements to hold countries accountable for their commitments and continue the support to developing countries through climate finance were also key elements of the negotiations.



The Paris agreement was, according to Commissioner Cañete, a key outcome of the European Energy Union and to go ahead with emissions reductions effort, the Commissioner explained that during the first half of this year we will see the presentation of a proposal for a revised effort sharing decision for sectors not covered by the EU ETS, along with a proposal on how to integrate land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF). These are, according to Mr Cañete, “key building blocks towards the EU emissions target”.



The Commissioner closed his speech by highlighting what he considered the 3 priority lines to implement the Energy Union, notably the need to increase flexibility in the EU market, to make sure that renewables are integrated according to internal market rules and to attract the right investments that will help the EU reach its targets.



EEF events

Security of electricity supply: looking forward to the 2016 legislative proposals

19 January, Strasbourg

Dinner-debate hosted by ENTSO-E



For 2016, the European Commission has announced legislative proposals related to security of electricity supply. The first plenary sitting of the year in Strasbourg was the occasion for EEF members and TSOs' representatives to assess the numerous challenges to ensure security of supply at an affordable cost.



Mr Peder Andreasen, President of the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E), presented ENTSO-E's perspectives. The European power system is in the midst of transformative change and some of *"the existing legislation is not adapted to integrate large amounts of renewables"*. Better infrastructure together with political support for interconnectors will contribute to improve security of supply. Apart from infrastructure, ENTSO-E stressed that the need for generation and demand flexibility is growing and that markets will be central to achieving this.



ENTSO-E advocates for the full implementation of the Third Energy Package. Firstly, the wholesale and retail markets should be linked in order to enable customers to identify clear price signals. The Association believes that customers can take actively part in the market and provide an important part of flexibility. Secondly, cooperation between TSOs and DSOs should be increased at the regional and European levels. To prevent and manage scarcity situations, ENTSO-E also recommends using its adequacy assessment methodology to enhance the market design and the security of supply directive. Finally, the question of governance including the role of ACER and ENTSOs needs to be addressed. This crucial point will be further presented by E-Control during a dinner-debate on 20 April.



Dr Oliver Koch, Deputy Head of Unit for the Internal Market at DG ENER, highlighted that the European Commission “*wishes to adapt the market rules to the new reality [of the power system]*”. It sees “*security of supply and the market design initiative [as] two sides of the same coin*”. This timely dinner-debate on security of electricity supply concluded with an exchange of views between the two speakers and Members of the European Parliament present at the event.



News from EEF members

New EEF Associate Member: GRDF



*Guillaume Virmaux
Head of EU Affairs of GRDF*

Since April 2015 Guillaume Virmaux is the new Head of European Affairs of GRDF, who joined the EEF last December. He has worked 10 years in the European gas industry where he held several positions in Engie (ex GDF SUEZ) such as European Sales Coordination Manager (2013-2014), Area Sales Manager for Spain, Italy, Turkey and Belgium (2008-2012), and Business analyst and Communications officer for Spain & Portugal (2005-2008). He has also worked for Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières) in Congo and Haïti as Head of Human Resources and Finance (2012-2013).

Mr Virmaux speaks English, French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese. He studied in France, Spain and Argentina and has earned a degree in Political Science and a Master of European Affairs from Sciences Po Grenoble.

COGEN's new Managing Director



*Roberto Francia
Managing Director of COGEN Europe*

Roberto Francia, the new Managing Director of COGEN Europe, has been active in advocacy with EU institutions since 2004, working broadly across energy and climate topics and particularly on electricity policy. He is cofounder and managing partner at Cinque International S.r.l, which provides analysis, project design and implementation in the energy and transport sectors. Most recently, Roberto has been leading the industry group working on Hydrogen Mobility Italy, aiming at assisting the Italian government in drafting Italy's hydrogen fuelling infrastructure rollout plan.

Roberto Francia is a native of Rieti, Italy. He graduated in International Relations and Diplomacy at the University of Trieste and obtained an MA in European Political and Administrative Studies at the College of Europe in Bruges.