

Information Bulletin



Editorial

Mediterranean Energy Observatory (OME)

In Paris, on 14 December 2011, I had the privilege to take part in the inaugural presentation of the flagship publication from the OME : «**Mediterranean Energy Perspectives 2011**» (MEP 2011, [See page 3](#)).

The [OME](#) is private non profit organisation created in 1988 and incorporated in 1991 which groups about 30 of the largest energy companies from the 14 Mediterranean countries. The mission of the OME is acting as a gathering platform to promote Regional dialogue and cooperation on energy issues and has become the think tank of reference for energy in the Mediterranean.

Energy cooperation around the Mediterranean was the topic of the Parliamentary conference organised by the EEF on 6 and 7 December 1996 in Catania, Sicily-Italy.

Since then, the EEF has developed its contacts with the OME and is looking into organising a second special event dedicated to the Mediterranean. I already touched upon this subject in my editorials of March 2009 and February 2011. The recent political changes in several States around the Mediterranean led us to reconsider the organisation of a dialogue on energy issues.

Jean Claude Charrault

Upcoming events

- 15/02/2012** **Bureau meeting** EEF internal meeting

- 13/03/2012** Dinner-debate in Strasbourg
Is Nuclear Safe Enough? at the invitation of AREVA

- 14/03/2012** **Board meeting** EEF internal meeting

- 20/03/2012** Dinner-debate Brussels ***An evening discussion with Commissioner Günther Oettinger***
More information on this event will follow shortly!
at the invitation of the EEF

- 21/03/2012** **Industrial and Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) meeting**

- 18/04/2012** **General Assembly** EEF internal meeting





Past Events



**Energy storage:
the advantages of the fuel cell and hydrogen solution**
11 January 2012 : Dinner-Debate in Brussels
at the invitation of Fuel Cell Europe

Speakers

- Dr. Oliver Weinmann Head of Innovation Management, Vattenfall Europe AG (FuelCellEurope Member – Introduction).
- Filip Smeets OnSite Generation General Manager, Hydrogenics.

“A hydrogen storage solution, or the electrolysis of water into hydrogen using excess energy from wind and solar sources, is the optimal pathway to increase the renewable content in our energy system mix. Hydrogenics’ long-standing dedication to this market opportunity has been well-placed. Over the past year we have seen increased global interest for this application, with Europe’s leading role being recognized by all stakeholders.” **Filip Smeets**

EEF Updates



Welcome to our new colleague

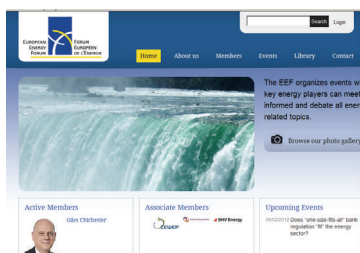
We are pleased to inform you that **Ángela Sainz Arnau** started working for the EEF on 16 January 2012. She will be organising the EEF events and assisting in communication issues.

After graduating in Journalism and Translation, she left Spain to come to the capital of Europe and this is her first year living in Brussels.

We welcome our new colleague and wish her lots of energy in her new position.

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Members news



Upcoming EEF members events

Do not forget to check the **News from EEF Members in the library section** on our [website](#) to see the last updates from our members.





Mediterranean Energy Perspectives 2011

Overall energy demand is spurred by economic and population growth, especially in Southern Mediterranean countries. Prospects for the Mediterranean depend largely on the policies and measures authorities will put on place in order to manage this thriving energy demand.

Without strong efficiency measures and increased efforts to deploy renewable energy sources (RES), over the next two decades Mediterranean energy demand could increase by 40% further burdening the region in terms of import dependence and exacerbating environmental concerns: an unsustainable and costly path.

Tackling energy dependence

While Mediterranean energy demand is, and will remain, heavily dependent on fossil fuels, efficiency measures and further deployment of renewable sources could bring the import dependence of the region down to a quarter of the energy mix from nearly half today and the South could double its export potential.

Preservation of water reserves

Water scarcity is looming in the region. There is urgency for better water management measures and for new sources (water desalination) to avoid a major crisis in the long term. However, water desalination requires large amounts of energy, which would burden the energy demand further.

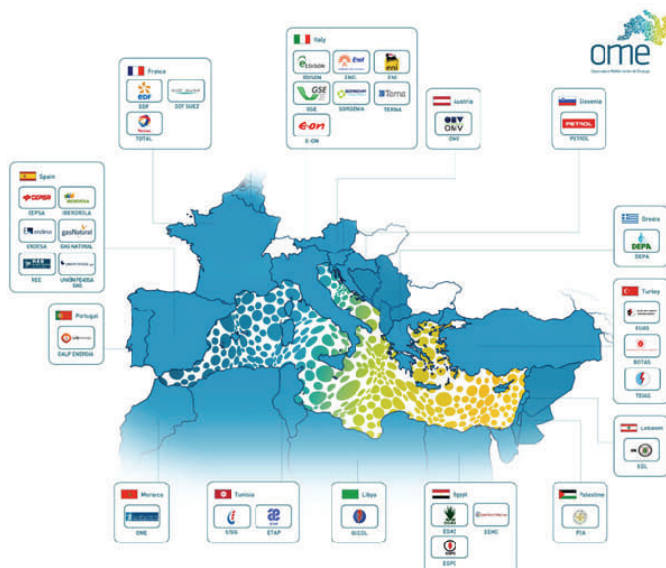
The potential of the South

While European nations are developing energy resources within their own borders, there is increasing interest to import natural gas and oil from Mediterranean producers and to tap into the South's vast undeveloped solar and wind resource potential.

Shaping the future energy landscape

Today the direct energy links between the South and North shores are for hydrocarbons but grand schemes are under consideration to develop large-scale electricity inter-connections that could lead to a Mediterranean Ring power cool.

Although it is too early to determine how the striking political changes and the financial crisis will influence energy matters, efforts to reduce subsidies, strengthen infrastructures, expand trade and open markets to investors would have a significant impact on the energy landscape in the years ahead.



Members map of the Mediterranean Energy Observatory
Source: Mediterranean Energy Observatory

MEP 2011 is a 300 pages publication by the OME. Another more detailed book presents the energy perspectives in Egypt.