

# EEF Information Bulletin

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## March 2020 Edition

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## Coming up

Dear Readers,

The European Parliament has decided to cancel all events on its premises for the next 3 weeks. Our event foreseen for 17 March will thus unfortunately not take place. We will try to reschedule and keep you informed.

Our **ITAC meeting** scheduled for **25 March** will take place as planned. Health is everyone's concern so we kindly count on our members to cancel their attendance if they know they might put others at risk.

Our next planned event is on **31st March**, in Strasbourg.

**Energy and industry, two sides of the same coin:  
How do we kickstart a green, industrial revolution?**  
31<sup>st</sup> March—STRASBOURG

## How electricity and industry can deliver on the decarbonisation objectives

Thursday 11 February 2020, Strasbourg

Hosted by Eurelectric & Hydro

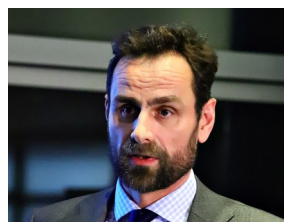
This event was chaired by Ondřej Knotek MEP, Active Member of the EEF. On this occasion, we debated on the role of the electricity in the transition together with the challenges and opportunities for electro-intensive industries such as aluminium.



As a result of the European Commission's long-term strategy, electrification - together with additional energy sources - will be key in achieving carbon-neutrality. **Kristian Ruby, Secretary General of Eurelectric**, presented some key figures to illustrate the speed of the decarbonisation of the electricity sector. In 2019, 35% of its production was generated from renewables while production out of coal dropped by 24%, a fast evolution stimulated by a robust legislation framework. We need an industrial strategy striving to develop Electric vehicles' infrastructures and smart energy systems. He reminded us of the impact indirect electrification (sector coupling and sector integration) could have in handling EU's emissions. He added that taxation will also contribute in building a proper investment framework to sustain diversity in terms of energy sources.

**Bjørn Kjetil Mauritzen, Head of Sustainability of Hydro** explained that demand for aluminium is growing driven by its low carbon application. It contributes to increasing security and to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for transport; to improving energy efficiency and to widening architectural options for buildings; and to facilitating conservation and transport modalities for food sector. Even though its production is electro-intensive, its recycling process requires very little amount of energy. He emphasised the fact that aluminium products have a great variety of carbon footprint due to their energy sourcing. Therefore, it

is crucial to rely on a high share of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) for production. Having a much lower carbon footprint, recycled or RES based aluminium should be encouraged via policies stimulating demand for greener products, providing consumers with transparency in terms of footprint. Exploring different paths towards greener and circular products, Hydro is currently investigating options such as carbon free processes, CCS, CCU and biomass anodes.



**Hans Van Steen, Acting Director for "Renewable, Research and Innovation, Energy efficiency", European Commission**, reminded that even though the EU's electricity system remains the most stable in the world thanks to established technologies, grids management needs to be improved. One of the main challenges faced while implementing the Green Deal is to maintain the EU's competitiveness in terms of industrial production, ensuring European companies the possibility to produce properly even in a decarbonised economy. Synergies between electricity and electro-intensive industry must be considered. Furthermore, direct and indirect electrification together with hydrogen and other types of decarbonised gases options should be explored. The European Commission is expected to deliver a strategy facilitating smart sector integration in June. We need to apply a holistic approach to decarbonisation and tackle various aspects such as circular economy, energy consumption in buildings and offshore renewable energy development at a larger scale.



## Exchange of views with the Croatian Presidency: moving together, into tomorrow - Oil and Gas and the Green Deal

Monday 17 February 2020, Brussels

Hosted by IOGP

The EEF invited the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the EU for an evening debate on the potential role of gas and oil in the energy transition. MEPs, EEF Associate Members from several energy industries, representatives of other Member States and the European Commission, as well as NGOs participated and shared their ideas.



**Ivo Milatić, State Secretary at the Croatian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Energy**, reinstated the embracement of the European Green Deal by the Presidency, while insisting on some key points: inclusiveness, cost efficiency and social justness. The energy transition should be coupled with further integration of the energy market, the strengthening of the energy security and the guarantee of access to affordable energy. When it comes to natural and decarbonised gases, these should act as transition fuels and enablers of sector coupling. Special attention should be directed, according to Mr Milatić, to ensure that the 2000 inhabited European energy islands will be able to generate sustainable and low-cost energy, so as to successfully take part in the energy transition.

**François-Régis Mouton, Regional Director Europe of IOGP**, pointed out the necessity of inclusiveness in the journey towards carbon-neutrality. He presented IOGP's vision for reducing emissions and proceeding towards decarbonisation, while meeting a growing energy demand. In his view, gas and oil would still be needed to supply the necessary energy up to 2040. Coal-to-gas shift, reduction of methane flaring upstream and rebalancing of investment portfolios are some of the solutions at hand to reduce the carbon footprint of the sector and supply cleaner energy. In



the long-term, the scaling-up and speeding-up of ground-breaking technologies such as blue hydrogen and CCS could substantially contribute to revolutionising the energy sector and avoiding a natural gas lock-in.

**Guido Bortoni, Senior Adviser to Deputy Director-General for Energy, European Commission**, is convinced that the energy sector will be the frontrunner of the green transition, taking us to the cleaner synthetic energy world of the future. This would be based on the replacement of existing natural fuels with renewable low-carbon gases and liquids, would be fed up by renewable energy sources and make use of the key deployment of CCS and CCU. Mr Bortoni identified many reasons to make the case for the realisation of a hybrid energy sector where synthetic molecules would complement electricity.



Many questions were raised on the implications that a future energy landscape characterised by hydrogen and synthetic fuels would have on geopolitics, the energy market and the network operations.

## On our members' side

### A new representative for D.E.I. - Public Power Corporation S.A.



Christina Papapostolou is the new Head of PPC's Representation Office. Prior to that, she held managerial positions in the metal industry and she has an extensive experience as Policy Advisor and Project Coordinator of EU funded projects. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Relations, an MA in organisational Analysis and Behavior and she is currently PhD candidate in the field of EU policy-making.



Last month, we welcomed Chiara Corradi, our new Erasmus+ intern from the University of Florence. Chiara has recently graduated with a Master in International Relations and European Studies and is going to be part of the EEF team for the next 4 months. She participates in the organisation of the events while working on EU legislation.

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