

# EEF INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## DECEMBER 2019 EDITION

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## COMING UP IN 2020!



### DINNER DEBATE

How electricity and industry can deliver on the decarbonisation objectives  
Tuesday 11 February, STRASBOURG

## EU Green Deal: gas infrastructure as an energy carrier on the road to 2050

Tuesday 12 November 2019, Brussels

Hosted by Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE),  
 GRTgaz & SNAM

The EEF hosts explored the evolving role of gas infrastructure showing how it could serve the energy transition.

**President of GIE, Jean-Marc Leroy**, stated EU gas infrastructure operators are committed to meeting EU climate targets both by exploiting all the advantages of natural gas and by welcoming new technologies. Relying on renewable gases and blue hydrogen in 2050 will be cheaper compared to a full electrification scenario, while at the same time guaranteeing security of supply thanks to gas storage capacity. The development of the green gas industry requires an evolution of existing regulation, to be deployed with transparency, based on technology neutrality and acknowledging regional differences.



**Thierry Trouvé, CEO of GRTgaz**, explained that the existence of renewable gases and new value chains is already a reality today. In France, there is increasing demand to connect biomethane projects to existing gas infrastructure, while reverse flows from the local network to the national transmission grid have been organized to manage biomethane surplus. Thermal and hydro-thermal gasification, Power-to-Gas as well as different technologies to integrate hydrogen into the existing gas network could all contribute to meet decarbonisation.



**Camilla Palladino, Executive Vice-President Corporate Strategy & Investor Relations of SNAM** said gas infrastructure is crucial both in covering season peaks and in allowing seasonal storage. In the company's green gas value chain vision, biomethane plants are connected to the network, while work is being made to install gas compressors in server stations to support Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) mobility. Touching upon hydrogen, Ms Palladino explained that the introduction of a mix of 5% hydrogen and methane in Contursi transmission network showed the gas grid will be ready to blend hydrogen and natural gas.

**Jane Amilhat, Acting Head of Unit "Networks & Regional Initiatives" at DG ENERGY**, said the use of natural gas to balance renewables and in sectors hard to electrify should go hand in hand with gas decarbonisation. The decarbonisation of gas infrastructure will happen under the trans-European energy networks (TEN-E) regulation and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). A revision of the former is likely to take place to allow gas infrastructure to be ready for renewable gases, with special focus put on the sustainability criteria. Cooperation between all stakeholders will be key to managing this transformation.

## Sector integration: gas driving the energy transition

Tuesday 26 November 2019, Strasbourg

Hosted by Eurogas, Uniper & Wintershall Dea

The EEF closed its series of events for 2019 with a dinner debate on gas that was highly informative and topical in view of the upcoming EC programme.

**James Watson, Eurogas Secretary General** explained that gas will play a strategic role in the decarbonisation of important sectors such as heating, transport and industrial activities. He insisted on the necessity of establishing a clear and common gas terminology, crucial to enhance the legislative and decisional process. Considering that only 18% of the electricity consumed today in Europe is renewable, gaseous solutions (natural gas today and renewable and decarbonised gases in the future) can contribute to meet the 2030 and 2050 targets. According to Eurogas, hydrogen is expected to be massively developed and applied to tomorrow's economy.



**René Schoof, Head of Hydrogen of Uniper** illustrated that one of the main advantages of the sectorial integration is that it exploits current EU energy infrastructure: billions of undergrounds storage facilities are available to store natural gas whereas complete electrification would require significant investments in infrastructure. The development of electrolyzer and Power-to-gas systems would enable the production of green hydrogen for which the industry and the technologies are ready. He presented "STORE&GO", a project funded by "Horizon 2020", through which Uniper is developing new methane technologies to produce synthetic natural gas out of wind and solar energy.



**Klaus Langemann, Senior Vice President in charge for Technology & Innovation of Wintershall Dea** underlined the importance of hydrogen generated from natural gas as it could play a role in the long-term. Available in large quantities, it could additionally be applied to current EU infrastructures. It is necessary to keep European wind sector active and competitive on a global level; however, he expressed the necessity to explore other options such as steam reforming - a mature project - or methane pyrolysis, that is still in a research stage but that is already more energy efficient than electrolysis.

**Łukasz Lisicki, Wholesale markets electricity and gas at DG Energy**, defined sector integration as the most cost-efficient option taking into account the security of supplies dimension. According to the EC's "8 scenarios", natural gas will remain an important part of EU energy supply even if we will face a decrease of its indigenous production. Sector integration needs to be implemented and the new potential framework should be extremely flexible to remove possible regulatory barriers and provide market-based solutions. Fully and correctly implementing gas Network Codes in all Member States remains also a priority. DG energy is engaging numerous stakeholders and conducting several studies in order to evaluate the current gas market design and its adaptability to the future.



## OUR MEMBER'S SIDE

### MEP Radan Kanev becomes Active Member



**Radan Kanev** is a member of the EPP Group and comes from Bulgaria. Mr Kanev sits on the EMPL Committee of the European Parliament and is member substitute of the ENVI Committee. He is member of the Delegation to the EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee, and member substitute of the Delegation to the EU-Armenia Parliamentary Partnership Committee, the EU-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and the EU-Georgia Parliamentary Association Committee.

### A new representative for Eni



**Luca Giansanti** became the Head of European Government Affairs, SVP for Eni in September 2019. He entered the diplomatic service in 1984 and held various positions, including: Director General for Political Affairs, Political Director, Ambassador to Iran, Ambassador to the EU Political and Security Committee, Director General for Multilateral Political Cooperation and Human Rights, Deputy Director General for European Integration, and CFSP/CSDP Coordinator.

Season's greetings  
from the EEF team

