



Editorial

The gas of the Levantine Sea

The Levantine basin is located in the eastern Mediterranean between Cyprus, Lebanon, Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Abundant hydrocarbon deposits have been discovered there since 2009. It is now estimated that the basin may contain up to 3500 Gm³ of recoverable natural gas. When compared to Algeria's deposits of 4500 Gm³, it becomes clear why the region's geopolitical situation is currently in a state of upheaval.

Who do these new resources belong to and how can they be distributed in a consensual manner among the coastal States?

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was signed in 1982 (by 162 countries) and came into effect in 1994.

The application of the convention to the case above will first test its validity then peacefully resolve potential conflicts of interest between the coastal States.

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Jean-Claude Charrault
Director General

Upcoming events

- 15/01/2013** Dinner-debate Strasbourg
Gas and renewables: Friends or Foes?
at the invitation of EUROGAS
-
- 22/01/2013** Dinner-debate Brussels
The role of biofuels in European Energy and Transport Policy
at the invitation of Neste Oil
-
- 29/01/2013** Reception Brussels
Reception on the occasion of the change of Director General
at the invitation of EEF
-
- 05/02/2013** Dinner-debate Strasbourg
EU ETS on the edge
at the invitation of CEZ Group
-
- 06/02/2013** Lunchtime discussion Strasbourg
Innovative Technologies ready for Supergrid
at the invitation of Friends of the Supergrid



Merry Christmas!



Past Events



Cllr Ian Darcy, Maxim Kozlov, Karina Tsurkan, Giles Chichester, Dangiras Mikalajunas of JSC "INTER RAO UES"

6 November 2012: Dinner-Debate in Brussels

[Development of the energy sector of the Russian Federation](#) at the invitation of InterRAO.

Russia is one of the largest energy exporters to the EU and one of our most important trade partners. Hence the need to understand the complexity of the Russian electricity market after the energetic reform that was put in practice some years ago in this neighbouring country and to analyse the differences with our market, as well as the ways to improve our cooperation. Participants to the dinner-debate on 6 November had the opportunity to listen to the detailed explanations and views of Karina Tsurkan and Maxim Kozlov from InterRAO on this issue.

"The wholesale market of Russia is under constant process of development. (...) It is the process which requires improvements, adjustments, but is a new market, it will definitely go better." Karina Tsurkan.
"The development of the cooperation within Russia and the EU can be seen in 3 different levels: cooperation within system operators, support of joint projects between governments and development of a working climate with EU institutions." Maxim Kozlov.



Chairman Jerzy Buzek chairing the event

14 November 2012: Dinner-debate in Brussels

[Coal : the global picture](#) at the invitation of EURACOAL. Debate chaired by Polish MEP Jerzy Buzek.

Coal is a cheap energy source compared to others such as oil or gas, but the coal industry will have to face a series of significant challenges to meet the environmental impact of coal and comply with EU targets against climate change.

According to Hartmuth Zeiss, CEO of EURACOAL and speaker at this dinner-debate, *"The EU has a choice: it can ignore raising coal use in the rest of the world or it can bring its expertise to lead the world on how to use coal cleanly and efficiently."*



Speaker Volker Beckers discussing with one of the participants during the debate

28 November 2012: Dinner-debate in Brussels

[The View from an Island: Could the UK model deliver the aims of the Energy Roadmap 2050?](#) at the invitation of RWE.

Volker Beckers, CEO of RWE npower, shared his views on UK's energy model and highlighted what we can learn about the island's experience so far: *"the need to retain the focus on delivering change in the most efficient way – delivering reform at the lowest cost possible; focusing on the most critical elements rather than trying to fix everything at once; and ensuring coherence with policies – both across Member States and to avoid costly changes in the future if we are to move closer towards a cross-border, common approach."*



News from Associate Members

Changes in Associate Members staff



Rachel Bonfante

Rachel Bonfante has been appointed Interim Director of EU Affairs at OGP's Brussels team

After a series of government internships in Washington, Rachel began her career working as a consultant on EU energy and climate change issues with Fleishman-Hillard. She then moved to the EU Affairs office of Norsk Hydro to focus on oil, gas and renewable energy issues. More recently, she has spent time in Mumbai and Beijing before an assignment in Jakarta with Pertamina as part of their corporate modernisation programme.

Rachel joined OGP in June 2010 and works with the European Institutions on EU energy policy (gas advocacy, including shale gas) and issues relating to transparency and CSR.

Rachel holds a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature and American Studies from the University of Wales, Swansea and an MPhil in Inter-



Simon Ashwell

New Senior Manager of EU Affairs & Policy at GE

Simon Ashwell has been appointed Senior Manager, European Government Affairs & Policy at GE and will be the main EEF contact.

In his new role Simon will focus mainly on EU and European energy policy issues. He will work very closely with the GE Power & Water, GE Energy Management, and GE Oil & Gas businesses to provide policy advice across a wide range of energy policy issues that impact the business. Simon will also continue work that Markus Becker led in his former role to raise awareness of GE's activities in the region, provide thought-leadership and policy expertise on key Energy policy issues.

Simon brings a wealth of experience to his new role, given his prior achievements working with GE's commercial energy teams across Northern Europe. Prior to that Simon worked for EDF Energy in the UK, working across their power generation, networks and retail businesses. Simon holds a Master's Degree in European Studies from London School of Economics and joined GE in 2009.



Editorial (continued)

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It's easy to see why the political situation between them (the coastal States) has become very tense. For its part, Turkey – geographically very near – worries about these recent developments which threaten to reduce its importance as a “gas hub”. The country is a crossroads for many existing and planned gas pipelines. In addition, negotiations for Turkey’s membership in the European Union are being blocked by Cyprus for energy reasons.

What is more, the misunderstanding between Israel and Lebanon over their shared border and its off-shore extension does not appear to be close to a resolution and could get worse if one of the two countries begins offshore drilling before the dispute is resolved.

Lastly, the chaos in Syria is merely making the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean worse, particularly because of a dispute over maritime space with Turkey.

It's too early to tell if this region's resources will influence the global geopolitics of gas, but it's clear that the coastal States will do everything they can to get on the train in time for this new race to gas production. Now more than ever, the growing reserves of this cleanest of hydrocarbons are of a nature to improve the global energy situation. The EU should give this prospect all the attention it deserves.

Jean-Claude Charrault
Director General