

# Information Bulletin



## Editorial

### Towards a European Energy Community

At its session on 18 January 2012, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopted – by 183 votes for, 2 against and 8 abstentions – an *own-initiative opinion* – rapporteur Pierre-Jean Coulon – supporting the principle of establishing a European Energy Community.

Almost two years ago, the "Notre Europe" think tank, presided over by its founder, Jacques Delors, presented a policy proposal entitled "Towards a European Energy Community".

Initially, this was met with scepticism and reticence from the European Parliament and European Commission which, along with the EU Member States, were tying themselves in institutional knots following the refusal by France and the Netherlands to ratify the draft European constitution, a situation compounded by the problems stirred up by the adoption of the substitute Lisbon Treaty. ([See page 3](#))

Jean-Claude Charrault

## Upcoming events

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

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

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- 20/03/2012** Dinner-debate Brussels  
*An evening discussion with Commissioner Günther Oettinger* at the invitation of the EEF

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

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- 17/04/2012** Dinner-debate Strasbourg  
*Fuels Quality Directive, the other side of the story: consequences for the EU Refining industry, EU security of supply and EU trade* at the invitation of EUROPIA

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

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- 25-27/04/2012** Visit to Vaasa (Finland)  
*Flexible power generation and renewable energy solutions* at the invitation of Wärtsilä

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- 30/05/2012** Dinner-debate Brussels  
*Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) & LNG infrastructure: a major contribution to a sustainable, competitive and secure European gas market* at the invitation of GIE-GLE



6 February dinner-debate, Brussels



## Past Events



Speaker Paul Dawson during the question and answer session

### 06 February 2012: Dinner-Debate in Brussels

Does “one-size-fits-all” “bank regulation “fit” the energy sector? at the invitation of CEZ Group

Speakers: Alan Svoboda is the Executive Director Sales and Trading (CEZ Group) and Paul Dawson (RWE).

The presentation of Mr Svoboda and the pictures of the event are available in the events section of our website at the following link: <http://www.europeanenergyforum.eu/events/does-one-size-fits-all-bank-regulation-fit-energy-sector>



Romana Jordan, Norbert Glante and Jerzy Buzek during the bureau meeting

### 15 February 2012: Internal meeting in Strasbourg Bureau meeting

EEF's President and vice-presidents got together in Strasbourg to examine the results of 2011, prepare the budget for the year ahead and discuss other issues relevant to EEF.

EEF Bureau: Giles Chichester (President), Alejo Vidal-Quadras (Treasurer), Jerzy Buzek, Norbert Glante, Edit Herczog, Romana Jordan Cizlej, Herbert Reul, Paul Rübig, Britta Thomsen.

## Members' changes

### Bernd Bogalla, Head of European Affairs of GVSt



Gesamtverband Steinkohle e.V.

Bernd Bogalla has taken over as Head of the German Coal Association's office (Gesamtverband Steinkohle e.V.) in Brussels and is the current contact of the organisation at EEF. Following his linguistic studies in Saarbruecken and Edinburgh with a background in electrical and mechanical engineering he gained a long-standing experience in the German and European coal industries. As Head of European Affairs of GVSt he is responsible for the association's relations with the EU institutions. Bernd Bogalla also works for EURACOAL, the European Association for Coal and Lignite, especially in the fields of R&D and environmental issues.

### Bengt Magnusson, Deputy Director of Svensk Energi



Bengt Magnusson is the new representative of Svensk Energi at EEF. He is the European Correspondent and Editor in Chief of Sweden-ergy's trade journal ERA Magazine and has been present on the Brussels' energy/climate arena for the past eleven years, reporting on the developments in electricity markets, regulatory issues and the political aspects of the industry.



## EESC Conference on a European Energy Community

Hot on the heels of its almost unanimous vote in favour of the establishment of a European Energy Community, on 31 January last the EESC organised a conference on the same theme, to which numerous prominent figures from all walks of society were invited. The conference also welcomed EU Commissioner Günther Oettinger, representing the European Commission, the new European Parliament President Martin Schulz and his predecessor Jerzy Buzek, and Herbert Reul. The tone of the presentations and the debates was distinctly favourable towards the plans for a European Energy Community – although, from various perspectives, there are undoubtedly some potential pitfalls that may yet prevent a successful outcome. Nonetheless, the numerous participants were in buoyant mood at the end of the conference.

### Energy europeanisation

Right now, the European Energy Community project is still at the concept stage, even though the Commission's faltering progress towards a European policy will gradually be incorporated in the overall project.

Admittedly, in the eyes of the Member States, energy is a subject too important to be entirely "europeanised", yet all the speakers who attended the conference on 31 January agreed that their fragmented approach to this issue is a discriminatory, divisive and weakening factor.

The conference participants believe there is a need not only for Europe to unite in the face of energy challenges, but for a pan-European approach stretching from the Atlantic to the Caspian Sea. In my view, this wider Europe is well-represented by the Council of Europe, which still incorporates Russia - a major energy exporter. [See my editorial in November 2008].

### Energy: a cause of war

When discussing the next theme, "Energy: a cause of war", many participants alluded in particular to the Iraq war and the potential conflict surrounding the Strait of Hormuz. By far the biggest topic of discussion in this context, however, was the ECSC Treaty. This Treaty, which places coal - and steel - under EC control prevented Germany and France from secretly rearming and becoming embroiled in the fourth fratricidal war in less than a century.

As a matter of interest, following the signature of the Treaty founding the ECSC, which entered into force in 1952, that same year the Treaty forming the European Defence Community (EDC) was signed. This treaty was intended to consolidate political fraternity among the Member States. However, the French National Assembly rejected the EDC Treaty on 30 August 1954. Immediately afterwards, the governments of the six founding Member States embarked upon a new initiative heralded by the Messina Conference of foreign ministers. This conference laid the groundwork for the EURATOM Treaty (European Atomic Energy Community) – which also mentions energy and war – and the accompanying Treaty founding the EEC (European Economic Community), which was intended to promote rapprochement between the Member States.

### Nuclear

Today, the EURATOM Treaty is often overlooked, yet nuclear energy lies at the heart of the energy debate between Member States. Curiously, it was largely bypassed during the conference on 31 January, doubtless because the attendees did not want to be derailed by this potential stumbling block. You may wish to read my editorial of January 2010, in which I draw parallels between the EURATOM Treaty and Jacques Delors's proposal.

In the nuclear sector, there has been a single, brief exchange of views on the ITER thermonuclear fusion project, which caused no real controversy. (I will come back to this subject at a later date).