

Information Bulletin

November 2021



Online Energy Debate on
EU gas infrastructure



Online Briefing Session on
Carbon Capture and Storage



Summary of past
Online Energy Debate



New energy events
in the EEF pipeline

On the EEF Programme

The EU gas infrastructure: fostering a secure, safe, and affordable hydrogen economy

Tuesday 9 November | 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. (CET)

Online Energy Debate via Webex — registration required

Understanding Carbon Capture and Storage: what's its role in getting us to net-zero?

Friday 19 November | 09:00 - 11:15 a.m. (CET)

Online Briefing Session on Webex — registration required

Clean Maritime Transport: What role for LNG?

Wednesday 1 December | 11:30 - 13:00 (CET)

Online Energy Debate via Webex — registration required

Time to RE-CONNECT!

Wednesday 1 December | 18:30 - 20:30 (CET)

In-person Event — Invitation coming soon, mark your agendas!

Past Online Energy Debate

How does the EU meet its hydrogen demand? - 26 October

The EEF held an interesting discussion on the EU hydrogen demand.



Holger Kreetz, COO Asset Management at Uniper, first shared his company's ambitious target of becoming carbon neutral by 2035. Hydrogen is a highly strategic pillar of the process and that is why the company is investing across its entire value chain. Focusing on the EU level, in the future it is possible that there will not be enough domestically produced hydrogen and imports will also be needed to meet the EU demand. Mr. Kreetz explained that a cost gap persists between renewable and non-renewable hydrogen: investing in low-carbon blue hydrogen – at least in this transition phase – could help bridge this gap and it is thus worth it. Looking at the future, facilitating imports and setting a worldwide certification system in place would be key to ensuring a well-functioning hydrogen market is in place facilitating transport and imports when required.

The strategic value of hydrogen was confirmed by our speakers from the energy-intensive industries.



Adolfo Aiello, Director Energy and Climate at EUROFER explained this transition is not only about unprecedented changes in the industrial processes, but it involves the upstream and downstream levels alike. Access to affordable low-carbon energy and the existence of markets for green steel are both preconditions of the steel industry's successful decarbonization. Being a key source of energy, hydrogen – and the energy it is produced from – represents a key component of the industry's production costs: ensuring its availability at large-scale and at affordable costs is crucial to safeguard the sector's competitiveness at the global level. The sector believes the technology neutrality principle is essential to allow to have more hydrogen available at lower costs and it is convinced measures rewarding renewable hydrogen consumption should also be envisaged.



Jacob Hansen, Director General of Fertilizers Europe, explained the fertilizer's industry is both one of the biggest producers and consumers of hydrogen and that the H₂ the industry itself produces goes into ammonia. Ammonia is denser in hydrogen and easier to transport and store, being able to play a key role in the decarbonization process being an H₂ carrier in addition to its other uses. Investments to develop ammonia infrastructure are thus necessary. Mr. Hansen believes pragmatism is needed: it will take time before the EU has enough renewables and electrolyzers to satisfy its H₂ demand. To avoid relying too heavily on imports, blue ammonia and hydrogen should be accepted at least in the transition phase. He also agreed on the need to create a market for green products and stressed the importance of developing standard of certification for green hydrogen and ammonia.



The European Commission is aware of the contribution hydrogen can offer to the energy transition. As said by **Tudor Constantinescu**, Principal Adviser to Director-General for Energy, last year's hydrogen strategy intends to set an investment agenda to boost H₂ demand and supply. The Commission is working to get the right technologies, definitions, support schemes and policies on end use in place. The importance attached to H₂ is reflected by its presence in virtually all recent legislation: from the TEN-E and TEN-T regulations to the Fit for 55 Package and upcoming initiatives on the hydrogen and gas markets decarbonization. Mr. Constantinescu highlighted the importance of international cooperation with countries with potential for renewable H₂ production as well as the necessity of creating a global market for renewable hydrogen, also stating that the EU should provide leadership in terms of H₂ certification.



These initial interventions were followed by an open discussion with panelist MEPs – EEF President **Jerzy Buzek**, EEF Directors **Franc Bogovič**, **Maria Spyrafi** and Active Member **Radan Kanev** – and energy industry representatives in the audience, mainly focusing on how to bridge the cost gap between non-renewable and green hydrogen, how to scale up hydrogen technologies and infrastructure, as well as on the necessity of ensuring that the energy system transformation goes hand in hand with affordability of energy prices and security of supply.