



Activity Report 2020



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Jerzy Buzek

Member of the European Parliament (EPP, Poland)

President of the European Energy Forum

This year was to be memorable for one good reason - the European Energy Forum's 25th anniversary. Yet we will all remember 2020 mainly for the pandemic that in so many ways turned our world upside down. If there is one single lesson to take away from that experience, it is how fragile is our sense of 'being in control'; the other - the value of facts-based reasoning and expertise.

COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on the health and lives of hundreds of thousands of Europeans; on our economies, the industry, enterprises small and big; on the labour market and our daily routines. Yet all of this could be just a taste of what lies ahead if we do not face up to a more long-term threat - the climate catastrophe. Droughts and fires, lack of drinking water in some and wild floods in other parts of the globe, hundreds of thousands of premature deaths from air pollution - this is the stake if we do not stop global warming.

This wider perspective has been part of the EEF's pedigree. Over the past 25 years, our debates have always focused on the right balance of preserving our environment and climate intact while ensuring secure supply of energy and competitiveness of our economy. In striving for that right balance, we looked at how best to streamline new technologies and innovation, preserving technology neutrality; how to finance our efforts and convincingly lead the way so that other global emitters follow; how to make our energy transformation truly ambitious, while ensuring that it is also just, effective and leaves no one behind.

In that sense, this year was no different for the EEF, even if most of our meetings took place online. This wider perspective echoed in our debates: be it when looking to kick-start a green, industrial revolution; ensuring that when the transition calls for clean fuels, they can serve the needs of everyone; or discussing how offshore wind can contribute to zero-emission future. The same spirit will guide our work ahead on the European Green Deal, delivering on the EU climate neutrality by 2050 while strengthening growth, our recovery from the pandemic and our overall resilience.

There is plenty ahead of us to engage on and help shape the right responses as Europe undergoes this transformation. At the EEF, where we - policy-makers, the industry, representatives of citizens, with a whole spectrum of perspectives yet all serving the European interest - meet for a transparent exchange of information, the ultimate aim is to help us steer this energy transition in a way that makes it effective, affordable and inclusive.

In 25 years from today, we should already know whether we have succeeded with our climate neutrality strategy, whether others have followed suit, and whether the climate catastrophe has been averted. Let us do our outmost to ensure that when the EEF celebrates its 50th anniversary, the answers to the above are all positive.

I wish you good energy to make that happen, for every day of the New Year!



Pascale Verheust

Director General

This year 2020 marked the 25th anniversary of the European Energy Forum. That's a quarter of a century of discussions on all energy issues and has created more than 500 opportunities to meet key experts, 100 governance meetings, over 30 study trips in and outside the EU, and, as a more recent development, 10 successful briefings for European Parliament Advisors.

25 years is also an opportunity to see history repeat itself with trends, patterns and innovations. One example to illustrate those words is the current development of hydrogen. Did you know that in 2001, the EEf provided high-level information on the development and potential use of hydrogen? We also organised a study trip to Iceland for the hydrogen project which aimed at replacing the island's use of fossil fuels with hydrogen-based fuel. At the invitation of the Minister of Energy and Commerce, the members of our delegation studied the advancement of this remote island in the production of hydrogen from their renewable hydro and geothermal energy.

Our events have evolved over those years, offering more and more interaction with the institutions, and developing a collaboration with DG Energy for every single one of our events and with other DGs as the numerous topics in energy are reaching diverse areas of cooperation.

This year, 2020, was supposed to be a year of celebration for our 25 years, but history has unfolded differently. While the world has come to a halt, the EEf networking events had to be reinvented as the energy world never stops. This would not have been possible without the high involvement of my colleagues Giuditta and Maud, who were both forced to carry out new tasks and embraced those challenges brilliantly. Thanks to them, the EEf succeeded in providing its Members with topical online discussions, involving numerous MEPs and European Commission representatives in the discussion and always allowing Members in the audience to present their point of view and be visible even if they are at home in front of their computers. The EEf events are and will always be interactive events where each Member has an opportunity to speak.

We are adapting to the situation, hoping to meet you all very soon in person. In the meantime, let's make the most of what we have and enjoy the virtual events to come whilst remembering the good networking moments of the past events.

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25 Years of European Energy Forum

*In the past two decades and a half, the EEF has grown, developed, and improved itself,
proving to be a key platform of discussion for EU stakeholders and decision-makers.
But how did we get here? And what is our way forward?*

A successful story

The European Energy Forum is still sometimes called by some of our Members the European Energy Foundation. Indeed, in 1995, the “Foundation” became the key place where MEPs, the industry and the European Commission could discuss energy topics.

It has evolved, following the trends and the developments of the energy policy very closely and focusing on its mission to inform, exchange and discuss.

Our presidents have each contributed to building the EEF.

Different nationalities and political groups, but the same strong will to help the EEF evolve and improve itself.



Rolf Linkohr
(1995-2004)
S&D, Germany



Giles Chichester
(2004-2014)
EPP and subsequently
ECR, UK



Jerzy Buzek
(2014 - present)
EPP, Poland

Message from Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson

On the occasion of the EEF 25th Anniversary, we had the honour of receiving a greeting video-message from Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson.

The continued support of the European Commission to the EEF is a source of great pride for our organisation and has undoubtedly contributed to make the EEF the success story it is today.



"Over the past quarter of the Century, your Forum has become synonym with frank and open exchange across the public sphere."

"You have brought together decision-makers and stakeholders alike. Moreover, you have provided a platform to discuss the most important issues for energy policy in Europe. [...]"

Looking to the future, the European Energy Forum is important now more than ever. [...]"

In this time of great uncertainty, one thing is sure: the Green Deal must be our strategy for growth, and the guiding light to our work going forward. [...]"

Needless to say, energy policy will have a huge role in how we meet this challenge. In this light, the Forum is fundamental in providing a space for the important discussions on the road ahead".




Continuity, but refreshed!

The celebration of the 25th Anniversary gave us the right input to refresh our logo.

The new visual identity intends to reflect the essence of the European Energy Forum.

The EEF is a crossroads of information, of different actors joining in a common energy discussion, all bringing their own opinions and knowledge. Sometimes they agree with one another, sometimes they still pursue different roads, but they are always willing to listen to, provide, and get the best out of the debate.

The EEF reality is inclusive, open, and evolving.



Inclusive and open, because we are always happy to welcome any MEPs as well as private and public stakeholders endorsing our values and willing to shape fruitful discussions by sharing and gathering information on all energy-related topics. We are convinced that an exchange is only fruitful if everyone can provide his expertise and share his ideas; the EEF reality knows no borders.

Evolving, because the ability to adapt to changing times and circumstances is a key characteristic of ours, which has long ensured the information we provide is timely and meets our Members' needs and expectations. Our Forum is well rooted in the present but always looking at the future to prospect possibilities of further change and improvement.

The EEF story in pictures



Kadri Simson, European Commissioner for Energy

Looking to the future, the European Energy Forum is important now more than ever (2020)



Ditte Juul-Jorgensen, Director-General for Energy, European Commission

The role of the EEF will be more important than ever to remind EU policymakers of the importance of our long-term goals and of maintaining our level of ambition (2019)



**Miguel Arias Cañete
Former European Commissioner
for Climate Action and Energy
(2014 - 2019)**

The EEF is important because it brings the energy industry and MEPs together, offering them the possibility to discuss in an open framework. There is no other format like this (2019)



Dominique Ristori
Former Director-General for
Energy, European Commission
(2014-2019)

The EEF plays a major role, building a bridge and establishing a permanent dialogue between the Commission, the Parliament and all energy stakeholders (2019)



**Giles Chichester, Former MEP
and EEF President (2004-2014)**

We and our successors will continue to need the EEF to provide the events where solutions and suggestions can be debated. (2013)



**Klaus-Dieter Borchardt, Former
Deputy Director-General for
Energy, European Commission**

The EEF setting always offers very lively discussions and it has always been a pleasure for me to take part in these events (2019)



**Günther Oettinger
Former European Commissioner
for Energy (2010-2014)**

The EEF can look back with pride at its role in promoting energy debate during the past three decades (2012)

EFF

The EEF in a nutshell

"The transparent exchange of information and opinions on all political, economic, and technological aspects of energy policy is crucial in the legislative process.

The European Energy Forum is the place, open to all MEPs, private and public stakeholders, where this fruitful exchange happens".

Jerzy Buzek - MEP, President of the EEF

Active Members

Elected Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) have always been the leading force of the EEF.

They govern the organisation, contribute to shaping the programme of the year, support, and chair all EEF activities. Their involvement testifies their appreciation of the EEF as an effective platform for getting informed through open discussions.

Active Members come from different political parties, parliamentary committees and EU geographical regions. They all share an interest in energy-related topics and value the open, inclusive, and transparent exchange of information between all stakeholders as a crucial element in the legislative process.

The EEF currently counts 26 Active Members. The EEF has a Bureau and a Board of Directors. The Board is composed of MEPs from different nationalities and political groups. The Bureau is composed of the President, MEP Jerzy Buzek, the Treasurer, MEP Inese Vaidere, and the Vice-Presidents MEPs Miapetra Kumpula-Natri and Pilar del Castillo Vera. The Bureau meets during the year to discuss the EEF activity.



Jerzy Buzek
President



Inese Vaidere
Treasurer
and Vice-President



**Pilar del Castillo
Vera**
Vice-President



**Miapetra
Kumpula-Natri**
Vice-President



Franc Bogovič
Director



Seán Kelly
Director



**Morten Helveg
Petersen**
Director



Massimiliano Salini
Director



Evžen Tošenovský
Director



Cristian-Silviu Busoi
Active Member



Daniel Caspary
Active Member



Andras Gyurk
Active Member



Radan Kanev
Active Member



Ondřej Knotek
Active Member



**Zdzisław
Krasnodębski**
Active Member



Liudas Mažylis
Active Member



Iskra Mihaylova
Active Member



Csaba Molnár
Active Member



Angelika Niebler
Active Member



Juozas Olekas
Active Member



Mauri Pekkarinen
Active Member



Tsvetelina Penkova
Active Member



Sven Schulze
Active Member



Maria Spyrafi
Active Member



Henna Virkkunen
Active Member



Pernille Weiss
Active Member

Associate Members

The EEF Associate Members are private and public stakeholders, regulators as well as research organisations active in all sectors related to energy.

They all participate actively in the life of the EEF by joining all activities and helping define the programme for the year.

Associate Members recognise the key role of open dialogue and inclusive exchange of knowledge between all sectors in the legislative process. They are committed to helping our political members have access to factual and comprehensive information by providing high-quality expertise for all our activities.

On 31 December 2020, the EEF counted 84 Associate Members from inside and outside the EU geographical borders.



Team

The small Brussels-based Team is very active and efficient.

It is headed by a Director General who acts under the responsibility of the Bureau and directs the EEF daily work, activities, and events.

The different background of the team members, their adaptive spirit, as well as a continued cooperation enable them to successfully take care of the core business of the EEF: from legislative research to financial administration, from events organisation to the management of the whole machinery behind the scenes.

The team works in close contact with the Forum political leadership, liaises with Members, and monitors the work of the EU institutions as well as the main developments in the energy and related fields. This monitoring is the basis to prospect possible subjects of interest for events and draw a programme of activities that meets present information needs and respects the institutions' timeline.



Pascale Verheust
Director General

Tel. +32 (0)2 227 04 60
pascale.verheust@europeanenergyforum.eu



Maud Michiels -
Administrative & Financial Advisor

Tel. +32 (0)2 227 04 61
maud.michiels@europeanenergyforum.eu



Giuditta Brambilla -
Energy Policy Officer

Tel. +32 (0)2 227 04 62
giuditta.brambilla@europeanenergyforum.eu

Network

The EEF has a long history of welcoming to its events senior officials and high-level institutional personalities from the European Commission, the Council, the Permanent Representations and Missions to the EU, as well as other public authorities inside and outside the European Union.

Exchanging with such a broad and ever-expanding network is key to better understanding the reality and needs of the European energy sector, as well as to gathering the best ideas and practices on a large scale.



Ditte Juul-Jorgensen,
Director-General for Energy, European Commission



Ivo Milatić
State Secretary,
Ministry of Environmental
Protection and Energy,
Croatia



Klaus-Dieter Borchardt
Former Deputy Director-
General for DG Energy,
European Commission



Miguel Arias Cañete
Former European
Commissioner for Energy



Riku Huttunen
Director General of the
Energy Department,
Ministry of Economic
Affairs and Employment
of Finland



2020

The year 2020 at the EEF

This year, we all unexpectedly found ourselves living a new reality. This required some changes, and a strong ability to adapt to new and still evolving circumstances. The EEF successfully managed to continue promoting open dialogue between all energy stakeholders, and proudly succeeded in growing bigger.

A word from our Active Members



Inese Vaidere (EPP, Latvia) - Treasurer and Vice-President of the EEF

In 2020, I was honoured to be appointed as the Treasurer of the EEF and join the core leadership team of the forum to shape its future.

While the pandemic forced the EEF to adapt its functioning to the circumstances, the work has continued successfully, and I see that the interest in discussing energy issues remains as strong as always.

As the EU moves on to implement the European Green Deal, we will need to take important decisions on how to best do it and, for example, increase energy efficiency in buildings by renovation.

I am convinced that the EEF will remain a crucial platform to exchange ideas and improve energy policy.



Maria Spyrali (EPP, Greece) - Active Member of the EEF

Our dialogue within the framework of EEF should remain future oriented, providing stability of supplies and affordability. In this regard, we must focus on hydrogen which is essential to support the EU's commitment to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 and

for the global effort to implement the Paris Agreement while working towards zero pollution. Also, batteries are of paramount importance for the transport and energy storage sectors with various degrees of hybridisation and electrification, enabling the transition to a sustainable and secure energy system, enhancing strategic independence for Europe. However, we cannot ignore natural gas as a bridge technology in meeting the 2030 targets.



Ondřej Knotek (RE, Czechia) - Active Member of the EEF

In 2020, energy sector has been at the heart of the European political agenda. Key legislative initiatives have been put forward while setting criteria for EU funds and private finance to pilot decarbonisation of energy and energy intensive sectors towards reinforced climate goals.

With Just Transition Fund, a positive signal has been sent into carbon intensive regions that also social and economic aspects of energy transition are being addressed.

In 2021, it will be crucial to maintain the approach of technological openness promoting both renewable and low carbon solutions in energy transition to enable best solutions for different regions and business sectors. Revision of energy related strategic legislation is as well foreseen, and this will bring the EU energy community again into exciting negotiations.

Definitely, the European Energy Forum continues to be a key platform bringing EU energy community together to exchange views on energy related agenda among others. I'm delighted to have the possibility to participate as a Member of the European Parliament in the European Energy Forum as well.

At this stage let me thank the whole European Energy Forum team for the outstanding job done insofar, for taking care of one of the most key success factors of Europe's future, which is the European Energy supply and its variability. I'm looking forward to work in the upcoming months and years with European Energy Forum.



Iskra Mihaylova (RE, Bulgaria) - Active Member of the EEF

Development requires we transform everything that is outdated, to set out new policies that will drive progress - with a technological revolution, digital innovations, and the use of renewable energy sources.

This will be the foundation that will enable us to take a radically different path in the industrial production process, preserve natural resources, which will improve energy efficiency and the effectiveness of transport and buildings, but which will also enhance the quality of living and will lead to the creation of a healthy environment for each individual. From my perspective, the EEF debates on these vital topics have a very significant role in strengthening our ability to instigate positive change as they permit the exchange of views between various experts and policymakers.



Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D, Bulgaria) - Active Member of the EEF

Without a doubt, 2020 has been a challenging year.

More than ever we saw the need for a secure and diversified energy grid.

With the widespread use of the home office, EU consumers noticed the benefits or experienced the challenges of a lack of a well-balanced system integration.

The EEF provided us with the opportunity to meet virtually with all relevant stakeholders and discuss the issues we face for achieving a greener and more sustainable transition.

Let's hope that next year will bring more face-to-face meetings and fruitful conversations.



Radan Kanev (EPP, Bulgaria) - Active Member of the EEF

2020 was a most important year for European energy, setting the foundations of The Green Deal and effectively starting the Just Transition. The pandemic made our work in the EEF quite challenging - and yet, we did a great job, struggling to ensure that

the energy transition is interconnected with innovative economic initiatives and technological innovation, that the Green Deal is indeed a growth strategy and provides new opportunity for energy-intensive industrial regions.



Pernille Weiss (EPP, Denmark) - Active Member of the EEF

2020 has indeed been both an Annus Horribilis and still also a Year of Ideation and Innovation of how to recover from the Covid-19 crisis by the way we co-create a greener, cleaner and more independent Energy Union together. European Energy Forum

has - and will continue to be - the agora of knowledge sharing of both newest technologies and up-coming best practices. A transition, where EEF is the clever host that provide dialogues between industries, researchers and politicians. In 2021, this will be a valuable source of enrichment to the more concrete files and upcoming legislative work.

Energy Events

1 Energy Debates

The EEF aims to provide a cross-party, cross-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder platform for discussion.

This is done through the organisation of high-level energy debates, where the EEF Active and Associate Members meet and discuss specific energy-related topics together with representatives of the European Commission, MEPs outside the EEF Membership, as well as other key institutional personalities.

The EEF has a long tradition of organising energy dinner-debates at the premises of the European Parliament, both in Brussels and Strasbourg.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 has unfortunately made it impossible to hold traditional dinner-debates. Still, the EEF has continued offering its Members the possibility to discuss and get informed through the organisation of Online Energy Debates.

2 Briefing Sessions for MEPs Advisers

The informative mission of the EEF also translates in briefing sessions tailored for MEPs and Political Groups' Advisers and Assistants.

These sessions, organised in cooperation with the EEF Associate Members, aim to help Advisers and Assistants achieve sound background knowledge on diverse technological aspects linked to the energy reality. From there, they will gather all necessary tools to form their independent opinions.

In 2020, the EEF teamed up with its Associate Members to organise two successful briefing sessions on gas and hydrogen.

All you always wanted to know on gas 30 January

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

Exchange of views with the Croatian Presidency: moving together,
into tomorrow - Oil and Gas and the Green Deal 17 February

New (post) COVID-19 reality - what does it mean for EU Energy Policy? 16 June

An exchange of views with Kadri Simson, European Commissioner for Energy 7 July

Energy and Industry, two sides of the same coin:
how to kickstart a green, industrial revolution? 7 September

Hydrogen from production to distribution and storage 2 October

Clean Fuels for All 12 October

Hydrogen Applications 16 October

Roadmap to decarbonise the EU energy sector by
2050: lessons learned from Spain and Denmark 29 October

Energy transition and Digital revolution: towards a
zero-carbon, consumer-driven future 17 November

Offshore Renewable Energy: how can wind power contribute? 10 December

EEF End of the Year Virtual Drink 16 December



All you always wanted to know on gas

Briefing Session for MEPs and Political Groups Advisers - hosted by the EEF
30 January 2020 - Brussels

The EEF Team and Associate Members joined forces to organise an educational session on gas for MEPs and Political Groups Advisers. The participants were able to gain the necessary tools to better understand gas-related issues and draw their own independent conclusions.

The informative journey started from the most basic point: chemistry. There is a lot behind the generic term "Gas" and the difference between the gases goes back to their chemical structure.

In an introductory lecture, **EEF President and MEP Jerzy Buzek** presented several gas molecules, among which carbon dioxide, methane and hydrogen. This was followed by an analysis of the different chemical reactions through which hydrogen can be obtained as well as the respective by-products.

Once basics were set, a panel of speakers from different Associate Members provided an overview of the whole gas value chain, from production to off-the-grid use, through transmission and distribution.

Natural gas in all its forms, renewable gases, Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) and bioLPG were all touched upon, together with their production paths, roles in our daily life, advantages, disadvantages, room for sustainability improvement and possible future applications. The transmission and distribution systems' evolution through the years, their functioning and organisation as well as their present and future ability to integrate both decarbonised and renewable gas were also explained.

Chairman:

Jerzy Buzek MEP, President of the EEF

Speakers:

Lucie Boost, Chair of the Energy Markets Sub-Committee of IOGP

Caterina de Matteis, Policy Officer of IOGP

Sara Piskor, Director Strategy, Policy and Communication of ENTSOG

Louis Watine, Deputy Director of System Development Area of ENTSOG

Jean-Marie Gauthey, Head of European Affairs of GRDF

Samuel Maubanc, General Manager of Liquid Gas Europe

Bartek Gurba, Gas team Leader "Wholesale markets; electricity & Gas", DG ENER, European Commission

Bartek Gurba, from DG ENER, European

Commission also contributed to the briefing, tackling different key aspects of the gas market. The overview offered on the structure of today's gas market enabled participants to understand its technical and regulatory set-up, as well as the challenges for the development of renewable and decarbonised gases. The main differences between gas and electricity, together with the advantages of sector coupling were also presented. The Commission left participants with some key questions to stimulate common reflections on how to best decarbonise the sector.

The session concluded with an open discussion between speakers and participants, where notions linked to gas emissions reduction, renewable gas production costs, LNG terminals functioning, and gas quality were touched upon and clarified.



How electricity and industry can deliver on the decarbonisation objectives

Dinner Debate - hosted by Eurelectric and Hydro
11 February 2020 - Strasbourg

The event, chaired by **Ondřej Knotek MEP, Active Member of the EEF**, offered the occasion to debate electricity's role in the transition, together with the challenges and opportunities for electro-intensive industries such as aluminium.

The European Commission's long-term climate strategy suggests that 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 legislative framework. Mr. Ruby said an industrial strategy striving to develop electric vehicles' infrastructures and smart energy systems is required, and he reminded the audience of the impact indirect electrification (sector coupling and sector integration) could have in handling EU's emissions. Taxation will also contribute to building a proper investment framework to sustain diversity in terms of energy sources.

Chairman:

Ondřej Knotek MEP, Active Member of the EEF

Speakers:

Kristian Ruby, Secretary General of Eurelectric

Bjørn Kjetil Mauritzen, Head of Sustainability of Hydro

Hans Van Steen, Acting Director "Renewable, Research & Innovation, and Energy efficiency", DG ENER, European Commission

Bjørn Kjetil Mauritzen, Head of Sustainability of Hydro, explained that demand for aluminium is growing driven by its low carbon applications. It contributes to increasing security and reducing CO2 emissions for transport; to improving energy efficiency and widening architectural options for buildings; as well as to facilitating conservation and transport modalities in the food sector. Even though its production is electro-intensive, its recycling process requires very little amount of energy. Aluminium products have a great variety of carbon footprint due to their energy source: relying on a high share of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) for its production is thus crucial. 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 "Renewable, Research & Innovation, and Energy efficiency", European Commission, reminded that although 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. 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. What is needed is a holistic approach to decarbonisation and tackling 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

Dinner Debate - hosted by IOGP

17 February 2020 - Brussels

The Croatian Presidency of the Council of the EU joined the EEF 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 all 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. For Croatia, 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 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.

Chairman:

Jerzy Buzek MEP, President of the EEF

Speakers:

François-Régis Mouton, Regional Director Europe of IOGP

Ivo Milatić, State Secretary, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Energy, Croatia
Guido Bortoni, Senior Adviser to Deputy Director-General for Energy, European Commission

François-Régis Mouton, Regional Director Europe of IOGP, pointed out the necessity for inclusiveness in the journey towards carbon-neutrality. He presented the IOGP vision for reducing emissions and proceeding towards decarbonization, while meeting a growing energy demand. In his views, 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 revolutionizing 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 with 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, which is a clean energy vector that cannot stand alone. Many interrogatives were also 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.



New (post) COVID-19 reality - what does it mean for EU Energy Policy?

Online Energy Debate - hosted by the EEF
16 June 2020

The **Director-General for Energy** presented the European Commission's main initiatives to strengthen the EU Energy System in the new reality.

The aim of the European Commission is to transform the recovery from this crisis into an occasion to accelerate the decarbonization of the economy and of the energy system, in the broader framework of the EU Green Deal, and in a way that supports EU competitiveness by strengthening economic growth, jobs creation and guaranteeing energy affordability.

The Emergency Next Generation EU and the reinforced Multiannual Financial Framework presented in late May represent a first step expected to help channel investment in those areas where it is most needed. The EU needs to be equipped with a long-term budget to help the recovery in a manner that is green, digital and ensuring long-term resilience. The Director-General expects the EC strategies and initiatives on Energy system integration and hydrogen, building renovation and renewable energy will be key enablers. The TEN-E regulation will be reviewed as infrastructure is key in the energy system.

She insisted on the key role of Member States through their national Energy and Climate Plans, reminding that the implementation of the EU strategies relies on them. A lot has been done for RES and more is needed. Cooperation and discussions, with DG GROW among others, is key.

Guest Speaker:

Ditte Juul Jørgensen, Director-General, DG ENER, European Commission

MEPs intervening on the panel:

Miapetra Kumpula-Natri (S&D, Finland) - Vice-President of the EEF

Ondrej Knotek (RE, Czechia) - Active Member of the EEF

Jutta Paulus (Greens/EFA, Germany)

Moderator:

Pascale Verheust, Director General of the EEF

Today, the EU has different strategies for different objectives. These all seem to work well together. This is a good starting point to enhance the EU competitiveness, reach carbon-neutrality, and ensure security of energy supply and resilience of the system also in the longer term.

EEF Vice-President MEP Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, EEF Active Member MEP Ondrej Knotek, and MEP Jutta Paulus provided their insights on the topic: channelling of investment, clear guidance on who is the receiver of the funding, the importance of guaranteeing stability and self-sufficiency of the EU, further investment in R&D to enable the rapid scale-up of renewables, bringing RES value chains back to Europe, coal-to-gas transitional projects, and the role of nuclear power in the period when RES are getting mature and stable were all touched upon.

The very topical question of hydrogen was discussed from varied angles: green H₂ or decarbonised H₂, the investment needed, especially in Central-Eastern Europe, the opportunity to use it for long-term storage as well as for the decarbonisation of hard-to-abate sectors, the blending in the network and the loss implied by energy transformation.

The Director-General took the time to answer all the questions from MEPs and the Industry, concluding that she looks forward to further discussion with the EEF.



An exchange of views with Kadri Simson, European Commissioner for Energy

Online Energy Debate - Hosted by the EEF
7 July 2020

Before the summer break, the EEF had the pleasure to welcome **European Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson** for an insightful energy exchange.

In her opening speech, Commissioner Simson explained that today's work on clean energy is a cornerstone for ensuring a green, efficient recovery from the Covid-19 crisis. The initiatives on the European Commission's table are many and all aim to strengthen the EU resilience, while enhancing its role as global leader.

On the 8th of July, the first two building blocks of the future energy system were set: the strategies on hydrogen and on energy system integration. Deeper integration will entail a deep transformation on all sides of the energy system, through a three-step approach. First, efficiency and circularity should be enhanced. Second, electrification should be used where possible. Finally, the EU needs to become a leader in clean gases and fuels - hydrogen, biofuels and biogas.

Simultaneously, hydrogen should fast become easily available. Demand should be scaled up and supply secured. The creation of dedicated infrastructure and market should follow. All this would help make the EU an international leader in the sector. Commissioner Simson explained that the significant development of green, renewable hydrogen is the main aim of the related strategy, but low-carbon hydrogen will also play a role, especially in hard-to-abate sectors. The European Clean Hydrogen Alliance will help by involving all stakeholders

Chairman:

Jerzy Buzek MEP, President of the EEF

Guest Speaker:

Kadri Simson, European Commissioner for Energy

MEPs intervening on the panel:

Pilar del Castillo (EPP, Spain) - Vice-President of the EEF
Franc Bogovič (EPP, Slovenia) - Director of the EEF
Maria Spyrali (EPP, Greece) - Active Member of the EEF
Ondřej Knotek (RE, Czechia) - Active Member of the EEF
Jutta Paulus (Greens/EFA, Germany)

Moderator:

Pascale Verheust, Director General of the EEF

and civil society in the discussion, by mobilising investment, and by enabling the required transformations on the production, transport, and consumption side.

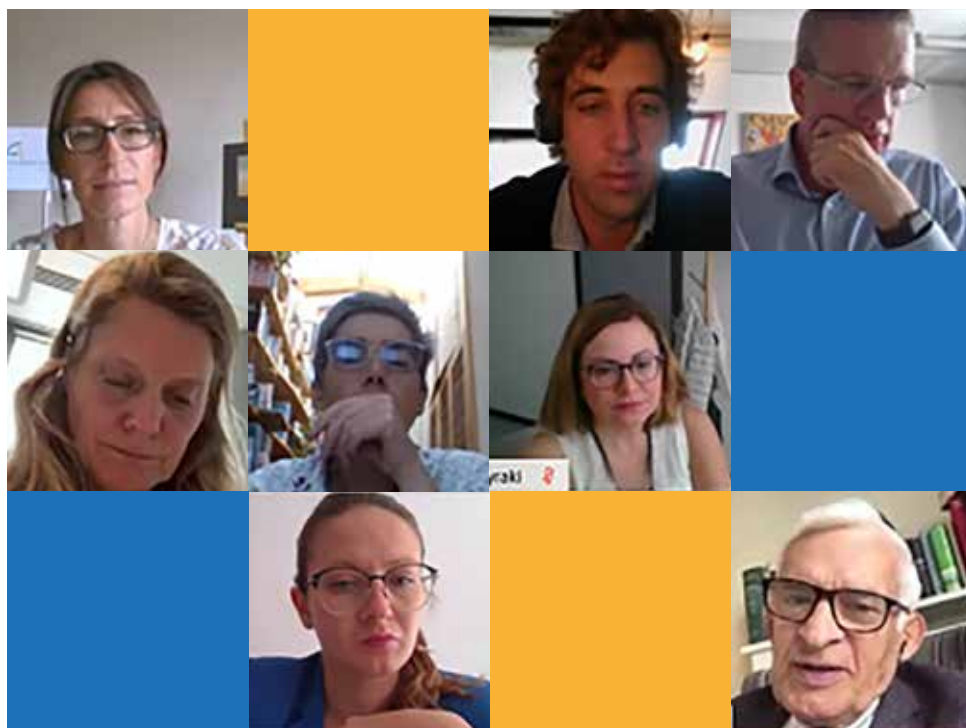
These strategies won't work in isolation but in coordination with all the initiatives yet to come: the renovation wave, the offshore wind strategy, and the revision of the TEN-E regulation among others will be key.

The energy transition also calls for unprecedented transformation of the EU industry, to be supported by significant investments. National policies stimulating private ones are also crucially needed.

Together with **EEF President MEP Jerzy Buzek**, many were the MEPs providing their contributions from the panel: **EEF Vice-President MEP Pilar del Castillo**, **EEF Director MEP Franc Bogovič**, **EEF Active Members MEPs**

Maria Spyrali and **Ondřej Knotek**, and **MEP Jutta Paulus**. They touched upon hydrogen market design, unbundling rules, energy poverty, the challenges faced by EU rural areas, building renovation and the promotion of construction material circularity, the use of CCS and nuclear in hydrogen production, technological openness and the EU taxonomy, the key role of civil society, energy efficiency, and the possibility to introduce a carbon flow price in the ETS.

The raised points translated in an open, interactive, and fruitful exchange between the Commissioner, the MEPs on the panel and the EEF Associate Members in the audience. Commissioner Simson addressed all points and answered all questions. She concluded by renewing her congratulations on the successful 25 years of the European Energy Forum.



Energy and industry, two sides of the same coin: how to kickstart a green, industrial revolution?

Online Energy Debate - Hosted by the EEF in cooperation with Cefic and SolarPower Europe
7 September 2020

The speakers from Cefic and SolarPower Europe investigated the possible synergies between the solar and chemical industry, focussing on how the cooperation between the sectors could improve their competitiveness while helping achieve climate-neutrality.

Christian Westermeier, Vice President Sales, Marketing, and Application Engineering at Wacker Chemie, and Chair of the Industrial Strategy Workstream of SolarPower Europe,

explained that the solar industry has the potential to provide the chemical one with cost-competitive and renewable electricity and feedstock, helping preserve the latter's competitiveness. Competitive chemical products in turn positively influence the competitiveness of the PV manufacturing sector, as they lay at the very starting point of the PV value chain. To make this a reality, the solar industry should be able to produce renewable electricity at scale in the EU. This would be helped by a comprehensive industrial policy considering also this industry's needs. At the same time, there is a need to develop market-based instruments and policies bringing the needs of the two industries together and enabling their transformation while protecting their competitiveness.

Richard Roudeix, Senior Vice President Olefins & Polyolefins Europe, Asia and International at Lyondellbasell and Chair of the Cefic Program Council Climate Change and Energy, offered a look on the chemical sector evolution towards climate-neutrality. Energy efficiency has long been the major driver of CO₂ emissions reduction in the sector. Today, this remains important, but new production processes

Chairman:

Jerzy Buzek MEP, President of the EEF

Speakers:

Christian Westermeier, Chair of the Industrial Strategy Workstream of SolarPower Europe

Richard Roudeix, Chair of the Cefic Program Council Climate Change and Energy

Ruud Kempener, Policy Officer, Renewables and CCS Policy, DG ENER, European Commission

MEPs intervening on the panel:

Maria Spyrali (EPP, Greece) - Active Member of the EEF

Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D, Bulgaria) - Active Member of the EEF

Henrike Hahn (Greens/EFA, Germany)

Jutta Paulus (Greens/EFA, Germany)

Moderator:

Pascale Verheust, Director General of the EEF

are also likely to develop. Since there is no silver bullet, the possibility of having access to multiple technologies - some of which yet to be developed - is a competitive advantage to be protected by regulation. Continued access to affordable renewable electricity remains key for the competitiveness of any energy-intensive sector, like the chemical one. Measures to combat carbon leakage will have an important role to play and should be combined with several other supporting policies to create a framework facilitating the transition.

Ruud Kempener, Policy Officer in the renewables unit of DG ENER, underlined that the key elements for the decarbonisation of the EU industry are many and varied. The European Commission's strategies on energy system integration and on hydrogen are

there to help the development of renewable energy and low-carbon fuels at scale, which will be key to fuelling the chemical and PV manufacturing processes in a sustainable way. This should be coupled with improvements in energy efficiency and measures to boost EU industry competitiveness, especially of SMEs. This is also to be protected by Member States through their National Energy and Climate Plans. Aligning financing with climate and policy objectives remain a crucial point.

Putting all elements together will not only enable the EU to make the energy transition a story of successful industrial development and jobs creation, but also a means to attract industries in the EU.

Speakers' interventions were complemented by insightful remarks from MEPs on the panel.



Hydrogen from production to distribution and storage

Online Briefing Session for MEPs and Political Groups Advisers - hosted by the EEF
2 October 2020

The EEF Team and Associate Members came together to deliver an educational online briefing on hydrogen specially prepared for MEPs and Political Groups Advisers.

The first session of the briefing covered hydrogen entire value chain - from production to distribution and storage -, providing participants with the necessary tools to better understand this molecule.

Ondřej Knotek, MEP & Active Member of the EEF, introduced the briefing by means of an overview of the topic: he described the current use of hydrogen and the relation between its sources and the environment, whilst also highlighting the existing limits and risks. Mr Knotek then concluded his introduction by sharing some personal predictions on the future of energy.

The explanations from the speakers from different Associate Members started from the very basics: what is hydrogen, exactly? Once the bases covered, the different sources, methods, and economics of hydrogen production were explained, along with the potential to produce green hydrogen at scale in Europe. The informative journey continued as the speakers shed a light on the element's ability to store electricity and explored various hydrogen storage solutions with the help of practical examples. The experts also illustrated different technical options for hydrogen transport and distribution, as well as their costs and tangible applications. The future of hydrogen in Europe was also discussed via the presentation of different studies on how

Introductory remarks by:

Ondřej Knotek MEP, Active Member of the EEF

Speakers:

Achim Ufert, Senior Energy Policy Expert, Corporate Communications and Governmental Relations, Uniper
Perizat Ybrayeva, International Hydrogen Business Development Manager, Uniper
Antoine Aslanides, CEO of Hynamics Deutschland, EDF group
Ton Manders, Technical & Safety Director of Euro Chlor, Cefic
Aurélié Beauvais, Policy Director, SolarPower Europe
Ton Manders, Technical & Safety Director of Euro Chlor, Cefic
Mathilde Blanchard, Policy Advisor, Gas Infrastructure Europe
Roxana Caliminte, Deputy Secretary General, Gas Infrastructure Europe
Dina Lanzi, Head of Technical Hydrogen, Snam Hydrogen Business Unit, Snam
Carmen Gimeno, Secretary General, GEODE
Julie Pinel, Head Smart Gas Grid, GRDF
Xavier Rousseau, Head of Corporate Strategy and Market Analysis, Snam
James Watson, Secretary General, Eurogas
Tudor Constantinescu, Principal Adviser to the Director-General for Energy, European Commission

Moderator:

Pascale Verheust, Director General of the EEF

transport and distribution are expected to evolve in the next decades.

Tudor Constantinescu, Principal Adviser to Director-General for Energy at the European Commission, contributed to the briefing, reviewing some of the main challenges to the development of an EU-wide hydrogen market, such as the necessity to boost demand and supply or the need for increased cost effectiveness and sustainability. The role and potential of hydrogen, and especially green hydrogen, in the European Green

Deal and in the achievement of carbon neutrality was also analysed. Investments and cooperation between all stakeholders remain key in decarbonising the energy sector.

The participants and speakers took part in a fruitful discussion where some notions, such as the role of hydrogen as decarbonisation factor or the costs and importance of energy storage, were reviewed, commented and clarified.



Clean Fuels for All

Online Energy Debate - Hosted by the EEF in cooperation with FuelsEurope and Neste
12 October 2020

The European Energy Forum organised an online energy debate to discuss the role of low-carbon and alternative fuels.

John Cooper, Director General of FuelsEurope, explained the refining industry recognises that the use of petrol is expected to be reduced very steeply in the next years including having no role in the 2050 carbon neutral Europe. Electrification and hydrogen are key technologies for the future of transport. Still, they have limitations and would hardly be able to fill the gap left by the steep reduction of petrol use. Low-carbon liquid fuels could be of help by playing a complementary role in transport and aviation, a possibility that should be recognised in the legislative framework. Creating a lead-market for low-carbon fuels in the transport sector is important.

Peter Vanacker, President and CEO of Neste, explained the many advantages of sustainable biofuels, whether renewable diesel or sustainable aviation fuel. A clear pathway of what we want not only by 2050 but also in 3-7 years is needed for the industry to invest. Also, a technology neutral regulation is needed. Yet, biofuels are not enough alone to tackle the climate crisis. All feedstock should be treated in a neutral manner welcoming all available solutions and boosting innovation and investment through a predictable operating environment. Cooperation is a key driver. There is a need for all alternative solutions and for keeping a clear and stable pathway to what is to be achieved.

Chairman:

Jerzy Buzek MEP, President of the EEF

Speakers:

John Cooper, Director General of FuelsEurope
Peter Vanacker, President and CEO of Neste
Claire Depre, Head of Unit for Sustainable and Intelligent Transport, DG MOVE, European Commission

MEPs intervening on the panel:

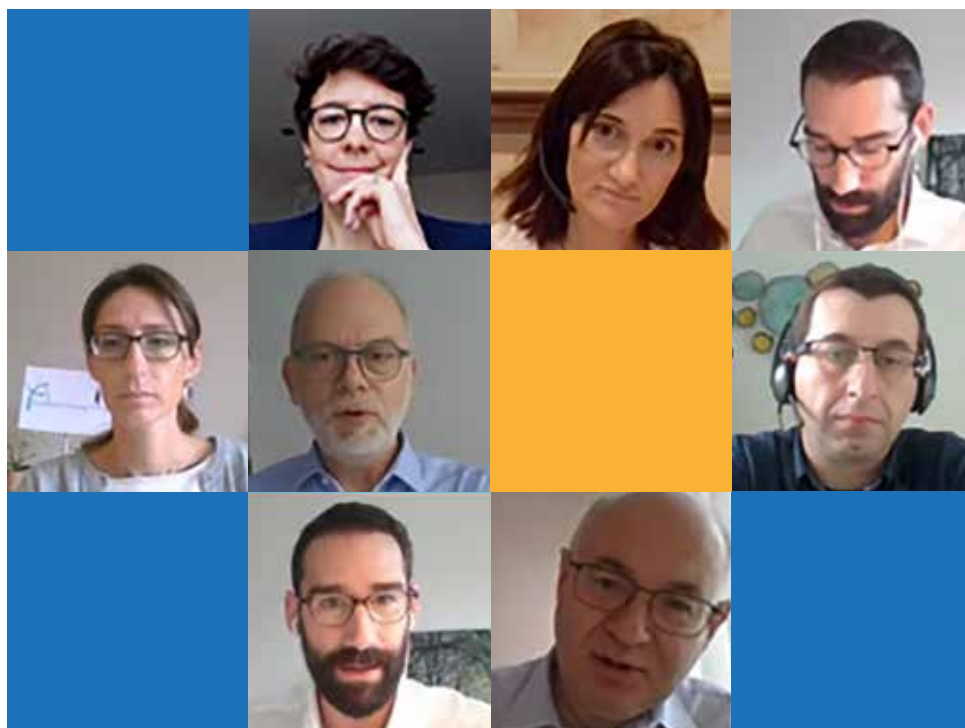
Radan Kanev (EPP, Bulgaria) - Active Member of the EEF
Iskra Mihaylova (RE, Bulgaria) - Active Member of the EEF
Mauri Pekkariinen (RE, Finland) - Active Member of the EEF
Georgios Kyrtos (EPP, Greece)

Moderator:

Pascale Verheust, Director General of the EEF

Claire Depré, Head of Unit for Sustainable and Intelligent Transport at DG MOVE, European Commission, agreed on the need for the EU to use all levers at its disposal to match the 55% target by 2030. In transport, a lot still needs to happen. The adoption of a fuel mix perspective could be a good starting point. For maritime and aviation, it would be interesting to capitalize the efforts done by the industry. She takes note of the industry's need for certainty, to be attained through a work on regulation, investment, and capacity building. It is also important to understand what is available for consumers, within which range, as well as knowing the future steps. The Commission is ready to address all these points via several dedicated strategies. One key word: "complementarity of solutions".

The **President of the EEF, MEP Jerzy Buzek, MEPs Radan Kanev, Iskra Mihaylova,** and **Mauri Pekkariinen,** Active Members of the European Energy Forum, as well as **MEP Georgios Kyrtos** shared their views on the topic. Points like technology neutrality, taxation incentives, country-specific differences, the preservation of the EU transport sector's competitiveness, as well as the need to develop human capital were all touched upon. An open exchange with the audience followed.



Hydrogen applications

Online Briefing Session for MEPs and Political Groups Advisers - hosted by the EEF
16 October 2020

Speakers:

Miguel Garagorri, European Affairs Manager, Iberdrola
Ralf Wezel, Secretary General of EUTurbines (European Association of Gas and Steam Turbine Manufacturers) & EUGINE (European Engine Power Plants Association)
François Paquet, Public Affairs Manager, COGEN Europe (The European Association for the Promotion of Cogeneration)
Ane Landaluze Solaun, European Regulation Manager, Iberdrola
Marion Labatut, Deputy director European Affairs and Head of the Brussels office, EDF Group
Tudor Constantinescu, Principal Adviser to the Director-General for Energy, European Commission

Moderator:

Pascale Verheust, Director General of the EEF

The second session of the Online Briefing on Hydrogen gave MEPs and Political Groups' Advisers the opportunity to further expand their knowledge on the topic, as speakers from a number of Associate Members delved deeper into the applications of this molecule in different sectors.

The meeting started with an overview on the present-day situation regarding hydrogen's current use, production, and demand. The main characteristics of hydrogen-based power generation were then explained, along with its advantages and the technical challenges that it poses. The conversation then moved on to hydrogen-based cogeneration: the technology, its process, uses and potential benefits were illustrated with tangible examples. The role of hydrogen in the decarbonisation of industry and

transport, as well as possible applications in future projects, were also discussed.

As in the previous session, **Tudor Constantinescu, Principal Adviser to Director-General for Energy at the European Commission**, also intervened. He tackled a few key aspects of hydrogen production, such as the variety of existing options or the need for adapted local solutions. After briefly mentioning the topic of hydrogen valleys and islands and sharing some personal views, Mr Constantinescu concluded his intervention by underlining the diversity of options and approaches required to move forward, but also the potential for renewables across Europe.

The briefing concluded with an open exchange between speakers and participants, who were able to ask for clarifications and for

the experts' input on different matters, such as the issue of adaptation from an end-user perspective and the compatibility of power plants equipment, but also hydrogen-related safety concerns or the market demand for green hydrogen.



Roadmap to decarbonise the EU energy sector by 2050: lessons learned from Spain and Denmark

Online Energy Debate - Hosted by the EEF in cooperation with Iberdrola and Danish Energy
29 October 2020

October ended with a fruitful debate on how to best decarbonise the EU energy sector, starting from what can be learned from the Spanish and Danish decarbonisation paths up to now.

Gonzalo Sáenz de Miera, Director of Climate Change at Iberdrola, believes decarbonising the energy sector by 2050 is feasible. Clean technologies are already cheaper than other ones in most sectors, and this trend will continue. Spain has already reduced its GHG emissions and achieved more affordable energy supply. With excellent renewable energy resources and a good level of human capital, it is now well placed to get even more opportunities out of the transition. Overall, what is needed is an increase in electrification, cooperation between citizens, firms, and governments as well as a clear European policy framework setting goals, defining plans, and guiding the economy towards the right direction.

Anders Stouge, Deputy Director-General of Danish Energy, explained how Denmark transitioned from a fossil fuels-based energy system to one mostly based on renewables. Despite initial fears, the transition made the country's economy prosper and develop new sectors now competitive on the global market, particularly that of green technologies. Denmark set itself a carbon emissions reduction target of 70% by 2030. All sectors will have to deliver, the share of electrification, both direct and indirect, will need to increase, and further support to the development of Power-to-X and CCS

Chairman:

Jerzy Buzek MEP, President of the EEF

Speakers:

Gonzalo Sáenz de Miera, Director of Climate Change at Iberdrola
Anders Stouge, Deputy Director-General of Danish Energy
Clara de la Torre, Deputy Director-General, DG CLIMA, European Commission

MEPs intervening on the panel:

Morten Helveg Petersen (RE, Denmark) - Director of the EEF
Franc Bogovič (EPP, Slovenia) - Director of the EEF
Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D, Bulgaria) - Active Member of the EEF
Nicolás González Casares (S&D, Spain)

Moderator:

Pascale Verheust, Director General of the EEF

technologies will be required. The consumer must be put at the centre, and this will happen with the help of digitalization.

The Green Deal involves a transformation of our ways of life, and **Clara de la Torre, Deputy Director-General, DG CLIMA** said this will not be easy. That is why the Recovery Fund must be used at the best to build back better. To reach the revised target for 2030, and climate neutrality by 2050, the EU needs to double the share of renewable electricity production. The building sector can contribute greatly to this, as well as to increasing energy efficiency and fighting energy poverty. R&I and the deployment of innovative solutions are also crucial. The Commission's Climate Pact will put all pieces together and reinforce dialogue among all

actors: acting together and now is the only solution to win the challenge ahead.

EEF President MEP Jerzy Buzek, EEF Directors MEPs Morten Helveg Petersen and Franc Bogovič, EEF Active Member MEP Tsvetelina Penkova, and MEP Nicolás González Casares all agreed on the potential opportunities offered by the transition, and each made a personal reflection on how to best help transform these opportunities into reality. Some remarks were also offered by the EEF Industry Members in the audience.



Energy transition and Digital revolution: towards a zero-carbon, consumer-driven future

Online Energy Debate co-hosted by the EEF and the EIF
17 November 2020

Every year, the EEF joins forces with the European Internet Forum (EIF) to propose a discussion on the synergies between the Energy and the Digital sectors. The event was chaired by our 2 Vice-Presidents, MEPs Pilar del Castillo and Miapetra Kumpula-Natri.

MEP Pilar del Castillo, Vice-President of the EEF & EIF Chair, explained digital technologies can increase the energy system's efficiency and benefit consumers, giving them a central role as well as access to a wide range of competitive energy services. Yet there also come challenges linked to data access rights, privacy, cybersecurity, the digital sector's carbon footprint, and the need to guarantee interoperability of services and applications through standardisation. Creating a single smart energy market via digital tools remains key to decarbonise the economy.

Miapetra Kumpula-Natri MEP, Vice-President of the EEF & EIF Steering Committee Member agreed that decarbonisation must be beneficial for consumers, who ask to be active players. As Rapporteur for the Data Strategy, MEP Kumpula-Natri noted that better data use and handling can greatly reduce GHG emissions throughout all sectors. Still, data growth and processing need to be developed in a way that avoids any substantial increase in the ICT sector's carbon footprint. More transparent data CO2 emissions measurements and greener data storage techniques are also to be developed.

Mark van Stiphout, Deputy Head of Unit C2, DG ENER, reaffirmed the role of digital technologies in running the energy system

Chairwomen:

Pilar del Castillo MEP, Vice-President of the EEF & EIF Chair

Miapetra Kumpula-Natri MEP, Vice-President of the EEF & EIF Steering Committee Member

Speakers:

Mark van Stiphout, Deputy Head of Unit C2, DG ENER, European Commission

Stefan Kapferer, Member of the Elia Group Management Board and CEO of 50Hertz, Elia Group

Dorothee D'Herde, Head of Sustainable Business, Vodafone

Annika Hedberg, Head of Sustainable Prosperity for Europe programme, EPC

Moderators:

Pascale Verheust, Director General of the EEF

Maria Rosa Gibellini, Director General of the EIF

efficiently and enabling RES integration. Cybersecurity of the grid, energy consumption of the IT sector, uptake of digital technologies in the energy system, and the latter's shift from products to services are key dimensions to consider. The energy system will rely more on the flexibility at the end consumer-side as enabler of RES integration.

According to **Stefan Kapferer, Member of the Elia Group Management Board and CEO of 50Hertz**, Elia Group, decentralisation and digitalisation will be fundamental in reaching climate neutrality by 2050. The energy consumers become both prosumer and an integrated part of the value chain. They act as resources of flexibility, indispensable for integrating more renewables. The EU electricity demand increases so rapidly that cross-border interconnections will be key for security of supply, ensuring electricity flows where needed. Digital technologies become

crucial as the only tool to manage a more complex energy system.

Dorothee D'Herde, Head of Sustainable Business, Vodafone, explained how connected devices can be turned into connected intelligence and make systems smart if coupled with the power of machine learning and AI. One main element to address is the digital sector's footprint, which is mainly electricity. The digital and green transitions will make decarbonisation a reality.

Annika Hedberg, Head of Sustainable Prosperity for Europe programme, EPC hopes the recognition of the link between energy and digital will translate in an alignment of the sectors' policies and practices. Better management of data and deployment of digital solutions can help green the economy, also by enhancing the monitoring, implementation and enforcement of the needed rules. She added that the ICT sector should itself be energy efficient and powered with clean energy.



Offshore Renewable Energy: how could wind power contribute?

Online Energy Debate - Hosted by the EEF in cooperation with Wind Europe and PKEE
10 December 2020

Following the publication of the European Commission's EU Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy, the EEF offered its Members an opportunity to discuss how wind can develop in the coming years.

Giles Dickson, CEO of Wind Europe, first offered a broad overview of wind energy in the EU, the way it is expected to grow, and the potential for offshore wind development. Onshore and offshore wind both contribute to the EU GDP and job creation. Importantly, wind power is nearly all made in the EU. Increasing offshore wind capacity calls for the development of hybrid grid plans to save money, space, and improve energy flows across the EU. A clear legal enabling framework is needed for this to happen. Wind energy is among the cheapest energy sources, yet it requires big upfront capital investments. A revenue stabilization mechanism, e.g. Contracts for difference, could help minimize the financial costs, lowering the cost of wind energy from 92/MWh to 50/MWh.

Focusing on Poland, **Tomasz Dąbrowski, Director of PKEE** explained the country recently approved a draft offshore support scheme act, setting the basis for the deployment of offshore renewable energy, considered key to transforming the Polish energy sector. On grid connections and infrastructures, the vision is that EU regulation should first boost the potential of the most advanced projects, being those connected radially to the national power system. When discussing the creation of new market areas for offshore wind, the EU should ensure these

Chairman:

Jerzy Buzek MEP, President of the EEF

Speakers:

Giles Dickson, CEO of Wind Europe

Tomasz Dąbrowski, Director of PKEE

Joachim Balke, Head of Unit Networks & Regional Initiative, DG ENER, European Commission

MEPs intervening on the panel:

Sean Kelly (EPP, Ireland) - Director of the EEF

Maria Spyrali (EPP, Greece) - Active Member of the EEF

Radan Kanev (EPP, Bulgaria) - Active Member of the EEF

Pernille Weiss (EPP, Denmark) - Active Member of the EEF

Nicolás González Casares (S&D, Spain)

Mikulas Peksa (Greens/EFA, Czechia)

Moderator:

Pascale Verheust, Director General of the EEF

do not jeopardize the business certainty of ongoing projects. Investment and support schemes for those country where offshore wind is yet not sufficiently developed remain crucial.

Joachim Balke, Head of Unit Networks & Regional Initiative, DG ENER, said the Commission recognizes that the objectives set by the strategy are particularly challenging, requiring a strategic approach. First, long-term planning is key. This should be done in a forward-looking manner, based on coordination among Member States, and integrating their transition needs and objectives. Second, a favorable, predictable, and future-proof framework for investors and operators is required. This will entail some

work both on the regulatory side, and on the instruments to support the competitiveness of the sector. Third, work is needed to strengthen the EU industry leadership in the sector, via the identification of the parts of the supply chain that need upgrading, and with the help of both cooperation fora and the EU financing instruments.

President of the EEF MEP Jerzy Buzek, Director of the EEF MEP Sean Kelly, EEF Active Members MEPs Maria Spyrali, Radan Kanev, and Pernille Weiss, as well as MEP Nicolás González Casares, and Mikulas Peksa all shared their opinions and put several questions as well as considerations on the floor, kicking off an extensive and far-reaching discussion with the speakers.



EEF End of the Year Virtual Drink

Virtual Toast - Hosted by the EEF
16 December 2020

The EEF Active Members, Associate Members, and the Team joined for a last online meeting before the winter holidays.

This event was a great occasion to better get to know one another while having a chat and some fun too.

The EEF Team had indeed previewed a quiz game for the guests: divided into teams, the EEF Active and Associate Members did their best to find the right answers - a different yet amusing way to work together in a field different from the energy one.

Once the winning team declared, all participants shared their thoughts on energy, their wishes for the next year and raised a glass of their favorite drink for a virtual toast to mark the end of 2020 and welcome year 2021, hoping it will be filled with joy, health, and objectives achieved. **Let's hope a wind of change will blow on 2021!**

The very informal, relaxed, and Christmassy atmosphere made it so that all participants felt at home, sharing some good moments together with the EEF family.

Chairman:

Jerzy Buzek MEP, President of the EEF

MEPs intervening:

Inese Vaidere (EPP, Latvia) - Treasurer and Vice-President of the EEF

Pilar del Castillo Vera (EPP, Spain) - Vice-President of the EEF

Franc Bogovič (EPP, Lithuania) - Director of the EEF

Maria Spyrali (EPP, Greece) - Active Member of the EEF

Iskra Mihaylova (S&D, Bulgaria) - Active Member of the EEF

Ondřej Knotek (RE, Czechia) - Active Member of the EEF

Radan Kanev (EPP, Bulgaria) - Active Member of the EEF

Moderator:

Pascale Verheust, Director General of the EEF

Communication



Communication

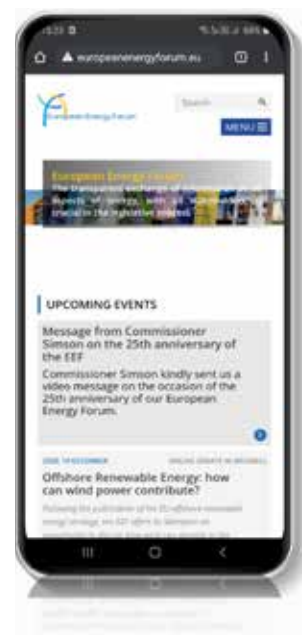
The continued communication between the EEF Team and all EEF Members is one fundamental pillar of the Forum. This year, this proved to be even more important, allowing the EEF to prove successful even when working remotely.

Stay in touch

The EEF Team does its best to keep all of its Members constantly informed on everything happening within the EEF reality.

The Team can be reached easily either by e-mail or phone, and is always willing to respond to any EEF Members' questions or queries.

The EEF website, the monthly newsletter, as well as the Annual Activity Report are other key channels enabling a continued communication between the EEF Team and all Members.





Thank you!

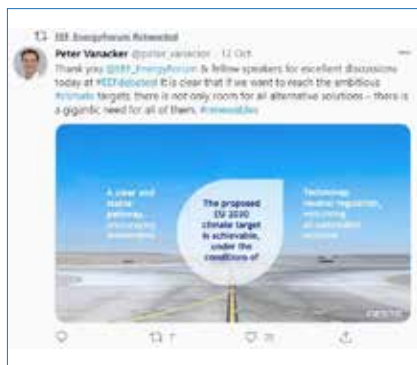
The new 2020 reality based on teleworking and social distancing did not prevent the EEF from keeping its beating heart alive through fruitful energy discussions.

This would not have been possible without the great support of the EEF Active as well as Associate Members.

Your willingness to keep joining together - although remotely - to provide, exchange, and gather information on all aspects of the energy sector was indeed key.

Thank you!







www.europeanenergyforum.eu

T +32 (0)2 227 04 60

Square Eugène Plasky 92-94, bte 14 - 1030 Brussels - Belgium

20, Place des Halles - 67000 Strasbourg - France

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