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It is no exaggeration to say that 2016 was the “year of delivery” of the Energy Union. By now, the European Commission has proposed nearly 90% of legislation needed to make our EU energy strategy work. Throughout the year, in the European Energy Forum we have had ample opportunity to discuss the various elements of the Energy Union and to make our contributions to the European Commission’s work.

It is now the Parliament’s and the Council’s responsibility to turn these proposals into legislation, and it is once more no exaggeration to say that the importance of dialogue and broad consultation in this phase will be more significant than ever. Here again we see a crucial role for the European Energy Forum, which already for more than 20 years has been providing the floor for such dialogue - for an open and frank exchange of views between experts, industry stakeholders and policymakers.

2016 also marked the 65th anniversary of the European Coal and Steel Community. In current turbulent times, with so many internal and geopolitical challenges facing Europe, it is worth remembering that our integration project successfully began with energy. I am fully convinced that still today energy can be the springboard for our further integration. And the more complex the challenges, the more important it becomes to analyse them together and discuss comprehensively - as we do at the meetings of our Forum.

On behalf of myself and the EEF Secretariat, I would like to thank everyone for their contributions to the European Energy Forum debates of the past year: the European Commission representatives, experts, Associate Members, partner institutions and last but not least - all the colleagues in the European Parliament.

I look forward to 2017 - let it be the “year of implementation” of the Energy Union and a year of many promising, inspiring and important European Energy Forum debates.

Wishing you good energy for every day of the New Year,

Jerzy Buzek MEP
President of the European Energy Forum
Dear Members and friends of the European Energy Forum,

2016 will be remembered as a highly turbulent year, especially for our political institutions. At the same time, it was a very exciting time for the energy sector, revealing new transformations, adaptations, and reconfigurations. We saw the Paris Agreement coming into force, European countries better interconnecting their infrastructure, Europe’s renewable energy industries breaking their own records, new sources of gas reaching our shores and we paved the way for much more.

We, in the European Commission have considered 2016 as the turning point between the old and the new energy systems. We therefore accelerated the processes and made sure the necessary legislation was proposed before the end of the year, including three major packages: the Security of Supply package in February, the decarbonisation package in July, and the modernisation package in November.

The Energy Union Plane has now reached high altitude but we in the Commission cannot steer it alone; we need our co-pilots. We are counting on the active participation of the European Parliament, national governments and parliaments, and businesses and civil society from across Europe. I therefore welcome the work of the European Energy Forum, which has proven an effective platform for advancing these important debates!

Let us, together, make 2017 the Energy Union’s Year of Implementation!

Yours,

Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President of the European Commission in charge for the Energy Union
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Energy and Climate: a post-COP21 discussion with Commissioner Arias Cañete

Following the COP21 negotiations in December 2015, the Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, Miguel Arias Cañete, visited the forum to share with EEF members some conclusions from the Paris talks and the work ahead to reduce emissions. COP21 put on the table a global agreement that is the result, recalled the Commissioner, “of years of hard work” and the EU has made “a strong contribution to this agreement”, which is, he stressed, “the first ever global legally binding climate deal”.

The Paris Agreement sets out a long-term global objective to reduce emissions and keep global temperatures below 2°C. As the Commissioner explained, this deal sends clear signals for investors and other stakeholders that the clean energy transition is a reality. Another important achievement is the revision, every five years, of the targets set by the different parties as of 2023. Strengthening transparency requirements to hold countries accountable for their commitments and continue the support to developing countries through climate finance were also key elements of the negotiations.

The Paris agreement was, according to Commissioner Cañete, a key outcome of the European Energy Union to go ahead with the emissions reduction effort. He committed to continue in this direction with new proposals that would be presented in the following months and recalled that the implementation of the Energy Union would depend on three main pillars: increasing flexibility in the EU market, making sure that renewables are integrated according to internal market rules and attracting the right investments that will help the EU reach its targets.

In March, two months after the discussion with Mr Cañete, the Commission presented the proposal for a revised effort sharing decision for the period 2021-2030, focusing on sectors not covered by the EU ETS. A second proposal on how to integrate land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) was launched in July.

The Paris Agreement reached at the COP21 summit entered into force on 4 November 2016 after being ratified by 55 countries that account for at least 55% of global emissions.
Security of electricity supply: looking forward to the 2016 legislative proposals

Speaker: Peder Andreasen, President of the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E)

Comments from the European Commission: Dr Oliver Koch, Deputy Head of Unit for Gas and Electricity Wholesale Markets at DG Energy

For 2016, the European Commission had announced the presentation of legislative proposals related to security of electricity supply. The first plenary session of the year in Strasbourg was the occasion for EEF members and TSOs’ representatives to assess the numerous challenges to ensure security of supply at an affordable cost.

Mr Peder Andreasen, President of the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E), presented ENTSO-E’s perspectives on this objective. The European power system is in the midst of transformative change and some of “the existing legislation is not adapted to integrate large amounts of renewables”.

Adapting to a new reality

ENTSO-E’s President explained that the improvement of infrastructures, together with political support for interconnectors, would help strengthen security of supply. He also highlighted the need for more flexibility in both generation and demand of energy and explained that markets would be central to achieving this.

The position of ENTSO-E concerning the need for security of electricity supply is centered around the full implementation of the Third Energy Package. This includes firstly better connected wholesale and retail markets, which would enable customers to identify clear price signals and therefore take an active role in the market, providing an important part of the needed flexibility. Secondly, more cooperation between TSOs and DSOs, both at regional and European levels. Thirdly, the use of ENTSO-E’s adequacy assessment methodology to prevent and manage scarcity situations and enhance the market design and the security of supply directive. Finally, addressing the question of governance, including the role of ACER and ENTSO-E. This crucial point was further developed by E-Control during a dinner-debate in April.

Dr Oliver Koch, Deputy Head of Unit for Gas and Electricity Wholesale Markets at DG Energy, highlighted that the European Commission “wishes to adapt the market rules to the new reality of the power system”. He saw “security of supply and the market design initiative [as] two sides of the same coin”.

19 JANUARY - DINNER DEBATE IN STRASBOURG
Dinner-debates

Climate Demons or Climate Gods: the coal industry stakes its future

Speaker: Dr. Patrick Moore, Canadian scientist and former President of Greenpeace Canada

Comments from the European Commission: Mark van Stiphout, Deputy Head of Unit for new technologies, innovation and clean coal at DG Energy

At the Paris climate conference in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first global and legally-binding climate agreement. The European Union reaffirmed its commitment to a cleaner and more sustainable energy system. Yet, notable divergences of views remain within the scientific community when it comes to global warming and climate change.

During a dinner-debate hosted by EURACOAL in Strasbourg, Dr. Patrick Moore, a Canadian scientist and former President of Greenpeace Canada, presented EEF members with an unconventional interpretation of the climate and energy issue.

Options for thinking

Although Dr. Moore explained that “carbon dioxide is increasing in our global atmosphere […] due to fossil fuel combustion, land-use change and perhaps some outgassing from the sea”, he claimed that “there is no definitive scientific proof that human emissions are the dominant influence on climate”. According to him, the release of CO₂ in the atmosphere from fossil fuel combustion contributes to the greening of the planet because higher levels of CO₂ increase the growth of plants.

The European Commission which works to achieve more affordable, secure and clean energy, presented its perspective on the issue. The implementation of these objectives may have an impact on the future of coal in Europe. Research and investment are being encouraged to adapt coal to the increasing need for flexibility in power generation and to develop clean coal technologies such as carbon capture and storage (CCS).

This event showed the differences of opinion on CO₂ emissions, its impact and the existence of divergent discourses and theories on climate change. As Dr. Paul Rübig concluded, the discussion provided participants with “options for thinking”.

2 FEBRUARY - DINNER DEBATE IN STRASBOURG
Dinner-debates

Electricity Market reform: more renewables, more security of supply and at competitive cost

**Speaker:** Julio Castro, Global Regulatory Director at Iberdrola

**Comments from the European Commission:** Florian Ermacora, Head of Unit for Wholesale Markets, Electricity and Gas at DG Energy

The second dinner-debate of February focused on the Electricity Market Reform, which had been recently discussed in ITRE Committee through the report presented by MEP Werner Langen. The reform is underpinned by the respect of climate targets, as well as by the need to enhance security of supply and establish fair prices for consumers.

Julio Castro, Global Regulatory Director at Iberdrola, explained the company’s strategy to adapt to this changing environment, which takes into account three aspects: decarbonisation, customers and the grids.

Decarbonisation, customers and the grids

Julio Castro explained that, until now, electricity customers have been supporting this effort “through their bills with levies and charges”. In his opinion, the contribution to decarbonisation should be further supported “by other sectors like oil, coal or natural gas”. Concerning the grids, increased flexibility in the market has provided more supply options, but according to Iberdrola’s representative the current options should include “the correct allocation of costs linked to their use of infrastructure”. In his conclusion, Mr Castro highlighted the importance of capacity mechanisms in the new market design “to provide the market with credible long-term signals that will attract investment on flexible and firm power facilities”.

Florian Ermacora, Head of Unit for Wholesale Markets, Electricity and Gas, added the perspective of DG Energy to the debate. He recalled that the current market is suffering from the lack of investment incentives, the difficult adaptation to an increased share of renewables and problems on cross-border exchange of electricity. Market mechanisms will help correct those problems, according to Mr Ermacora, and subsidies of any type, both for conventional and renewable energy sources, should now be avoided.

As regards capacity, Mr Ermacora admitted that with the current excess of electricity generation, parts of that capacity will have to leave the market. The assessment on the need for capacity markets must be done, he said, from a more objective and cross-border perspective.
Exchange of views with the Dutch Presidency: How regional cooperation will help achieve the Energy Union

Speakers:
- Drs. Birgitta Westgren, Director of Energy Market and Innovation at the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs
- Roger Miesen, Member of the Board of RWE Generation SE and Country Chair for the Netherlands

Comments from the European Commission: Paula Pinho, Head of Unit for Energy Policy Coordination at DG Energy

The "year of delivery" for the Energy Union started under the mandate of the Dutch Presidency at the Council of the European Union. Strengthening regional cooperation was among the priorities highlighted by the Presidency in its programme as far as energy was concerned. Drs. Birgitta Westgren, Director of Energy Market and Innovation at the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, was invited to join an EEF discussion on this issue in March.

Regional integration and guidance for Member States

During her speech, Ms Westgren mentioned some of the already existing initiatives on regional cooperation, such as BEMIP, the German electricity neighbours process, the North Sea cooperation or the Pentalateral Energy Forum.

The Dutch Presidency representative recalled that these regional actions allow for further market integration, which "leads to more efficient solutions and increases the flexibility of our system", allowing EU citizens "to get energy when and where it is needed and at a reasonable price."

Mr Roger Miesen, Member of the Board of RWE Generation SE and Country Chair for the Netherlands, provided the business perspective on the issue. According to RWE’s representative, stronger cooperation should include "regional and improved capacity adequacy assessments, joint analysis and development of regional solutions on how to deliver security of supply and a European framework for a future market design, with a special emphasis on the need of capacity markets."

Paula Pinho, Head of Unit for Energy Policy Coordination at DG Energy, closed the round of interventions by highlighting the current lack of unanimity when it comes to the implementation of measures concerning regional cooperation. Ms Pinho concluded that "on top of the mandatory and the voluntary approaches" to regional cooperation adopted by the Commission, "there needs to be guidance" for Member States, which is something the Commission is working on.
Dinner-debates

Securing Energy Supplies: Europe’s position on the global stage

**Speaker:** Francesco Giunti, Executive Vice-President of Eni

**Comments from the European Commission:** Stefan Moser, Head of Unit for Security of Supply at DG Energy

Shortly after the publication of the European Commission’s Energy Security Package, EEF members were invited to discuss security of gas supply with Eni’s Executive Vice-President, Francesco Giunti, and Stefan Moser, Head of Unit for Security of Supply at DG Energy.

According to the two guest speakers, the completion of the EU’s Internal Energy Market is instrumental in ensuring security of supply. Commenting on the state of gas supply to the EU, Mr. Giunti explained that the existing infrastructure would be sufficient to support bigger gas flows.

Completing the Internal Energy Market

In addition, gas supply options are becoming more diverse. The new gas discoveries, such as the large reserve found by Eni in the deep waters of Egypt (Zohr), may constitute an alternative to traditional supplies and declining European domestic production.

According to Eni’s Executive Vice-President, if the EU wants to guarantee security of energy supply, the Internal Energy Market needs to be finalized. To achieve a full and efficient use of existing infrastructures, gas flow should be determined by market-oriented tariffs.

In a complementary intervention, Mr Moser, representative of DG Energy, warned that some challenges are still to be overcome in order to make the market more competitive and “enable gas to play its full role in the transition towards low-carbon economy.”

Missing links in the internal market, especially in South-Eastern Europe, are one of the big challenges to face. In this light, the Strategy for LNG and gas storage “identifies obstacles in the internal market to make sure that there is a rational use of resources across borders”. The major innovation of the Package, Mr Moser added, is to put “more emphasis on regional cooperation in order to pool resources and use them more efficiently.”
Dinner-debates

Diversification and cross-border interconnections at the core of the EU Internal Energy Market

Speaker: Andrea Stegher, Head of Business Development at SNAM

Comments from the European Commission: Catharina Sikow-Magny, Head of Unit for Networks and Regional Initiatives at DG Energy

The Energy Security Package highlights the importance of completing the EU Internal Energy Market and putting in place the missing infrastructure links. Following the event on security of supply held in Brussels, the EEF organised a complementary discussion on gas interconnections in Strasbourg.

According to Andrea Stegher who delivered the keynote speech that preceded the discussion, the EU has “a good solid base of infrastructure already in place”. One of the key issues now is to develop storage technologies. Stegher works as Head of Business Development in SNAM, one of the largest single storage companies in Europe.

Role of gas in the future energy mix

He explained that storage is something “we normally talk about when emergencies arise”, but argued that this technology is “the real provider of flexibility in the gas market”.

SNAM’s representative also analysed the role of gas in the new energy mix. “Gas and infrastructures”, he said, “can deliver immediately something for the future” by reducing emissions, contributing to increasing the role of gas in transport and helping to increase the share of RES in the energy mix. The share of domestic gas production can also be increased by using bio methane, which Mr Stegher described as a “programmable renewable source of energy”.

Following his intervention, Catharina Sikow-Magny took the floor to complement the presentation with the point of view of DG Energy. According to Ms Sikow-Magny, gas is expected to “continue playing its important role in the energy mix also in the future”. She also highlighted that without interconnections, the IEM “would remain on paper” and explained that “although some investments are needed in certain areas for security of supply and regasification purposes” the amounts of money needed to develop interconnections are not so high.
In the light of the changing energy landscape, the Communication on the Energy Union stressed the importance of addressing governance and reinforcing the powers of ACER (the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators) and the ENTSOs (European Networks of Transmission System Operators).

In this context, E-Control Austria, the Austrian regulator, hosted a dinner-debate focused on the governance of ACER, ENTSO-E and ENTSOG. The cooperation structure between these entities was established following the adoption of the Third Energy Package in 2009.

Technical differences between Member States

During his presentation, Mr Walter Boltz, former Executive Director of E-Control, identified some of the areas for improvement in the current governance system: the enforcement of cross-border rules, the level of oversight of ACER and the ENTSOs, as well as the internal structure of ACER.

Mr Boltz also highlighted the need to strengthen the supervision of “new entities or new functions performed by existing entities which are not yet subject to a coordinated regional or EU level oversight and governance framework”.

Dr Oliver Koch, Deputy Head of Unit for Gas and Electricity Wholesale Markets at the European Commission, presented the views of DG Energy on these issues. Questioning why the Third Energy Package did not produce some of the results expected, Dr Koch underlined the complexity of reaching technical decisions under the current framework. National divergences are often exacerbated by technical differences between Member States.

Against this background, the European Commission proposes to create mechanisms to avoid nationally-dominated decision-making and reach regional solutions about contentious issues. In addition, the European Commission encourages the reinforcement of regional TSOs cooperation.
Bridging Europe’s Energy Divide – How to link Central and Western Europe?

Speakers:
Pawel Olechnowicz, Chairman of CEEP
Heiko Ammermann, Senior Partner at Roland Berger and Advisor to CEEP

Comments from the European Commission: Alejandro Ulzurrun, Head of Unit for Communication and Inter-institutional relations at DG Energy

How to link Central Europe with the rest of Europe? How to create a more resilient EU as a whole? These were the questions addressed during the dinner-debate in Strasbourg hosted by Central Europe Energy Partners (CEEP), the association representing energy and energy-intensive companies from Central Europe at the EU level.

CEEP was established six years ago with the idea of tackling the issue of the completion of the EU. Mr Pawel Olechnowicz, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the association, explained in his opening speech that this initial idea evolved over the years into a more concrete project: improving North-South and East-West connections in the energy, transport and telecommunications sectors.

Interconnections in energy, transport and telecoms

During the dinner-debate, Mr Heiko Ammermann, Senior Partner at Roland Berger and advisor to CEEP, discussed with EEF Members the results of a research on how the construction of the North-South Corridor could be a key enabler for completing the European integration process. The Corridor would comprise a set of interrelated gas, electricity and oil transmission infrastructure projects linking Central European markets both with each other and with the Western part of the continent.

However, the implementation of key Corridor projects through commercial finance alone will likely be challenging, added Mr Ammermann. The research found that some projects call for public financial support because of their limited commercial viability. In addition, the North-South Corridor would have to be realized piece by piece based on individual projects which make economic sense and with a leading role played by national TSOs.

Speaking on behalf of DG Energy, Mr Alejandro Ulzurrun, Head of Unit for Communication and Inter-institutional relations, emphasised the crucial importance of the infrastructure network in completing the European integration project. “Interconnections are not only about the Energy Union but about giving a sense to the European Union.”
Dinner-debates

LNG: a game changer for the EU’s transport and power sector?

Speakers:
- Kari Hietanen, Executive Vice-President of Wärtsilä
- Timo Koponen, Vice-President of Flows and Gas Solutions at Wärtsilä
- Jean-Marc Leroy, President of GIE

Comments from the European Commission: Stefan Moser, Head of Unit for Security of Supply at DG Energy

This dinner-debate took place shortly after the publication of the Energy Security Package and just before the Commission’s Communication on the Decarbonisation of Transport. Against this background, Wärtsilä which manufactures and provides power sources and other equipment in the marine and energy markets, proposed to look at the potential of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the power and transport sectors.

Storage and diversification of supply routes

LNG is being increasingly used to balance energy generation and as a fuel in heavy transport such as shipping. Mr Kari Hietanen and Mr Timo Koponen, senior representatives of Wärtsilä, introduced the dinner-debate by outlining why LNG could be a game changer for the EU in these sectors. Natural gas takes up approximately 600 times less volume when it is liquefied. This provides possibilities to use LNG as a mode of storage as well as to diversify existing supply routes. Besides, the development of LNG can help reduce emissions significantly compared to other fossil fuels.

With a view to offering a comprehensive picture of the issue, Wärtsilä had invited Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE), another EEF Member represented at this dinner-debate by its President Mr Jean-Marc Leroy, to make a complementary statement on small-scale LNG. To supply remote areas, most of the European LNG import terminals already offer truck loading and the possibility of loading bunkering ships is increasing.

Finally, Mr Stefan Moser from the European Commission took the floor to present DG Energy’s perspective on LNG and gas storage. In the Strategy published as part of the Energy Security Package, the European Commission tries to identify the missing infrastructure to ensure that gas can be available everywhere and at any time. During the discussion, participants also raised the issues of gas leakages and gas quality.
Energy Efficiency as a business case for companies

**Speaker:** Oliver Golly, Head of Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs at E.ON Connecting Energies

**Comments from the European Commission:** Paul Hodson, Head of Unit for Energy Efficiency at DG Energy

Ahead of the revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive, the EEF organized a dinner-debate focused on energy efficiency solutions for companies. In October 2014, EU Member States agreed on a new energy efficiency target of at least 27% by 2030. To achieve this target, Member States will need to seek the support of businesses and customers.

Oliver Golly, Head of Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs at E.ON Connecting Energies, presented a range of real case examples of energy solutions for customers in the commercial, industrial and public sectors.

According to EON, tailored energy solutions, such as energy management systems to monitor consumption or combined-cycle gas turbines (on-site generation), can help business customers reach both decarbonisation and cost reduction objectives.

However, “a long-term framework with clear and coherent targets” will be required if we want to reduce the risks in the market and thereby engage customers, Mr Golly added.

Paul Hodson, who leads the unit for Energy Efficiency at DG Energy, then took the floor to take stock of the progress made in terms of energy efficiency in the EU. In addition to the functioning of the market itself, product policy through eco-design and labelling regulations has caused one of the largest reductions in energy consumption so far. If the EU wants to deliver more energy efficiency in the future, market failures in the buildings sector will have to be addressed. According to the European Commission’s representative, a combination of ICT, innovation and new business models will be key to further improving energy efficiency.

Dinner-debates

The Western Balkans meeting EU energy and climate goals

Speakers:
• Slavcho Neykov, Chairman of the Board of Managers of the Energy Management Institute
• Nikola Radovanovic, Chief Legal Officer for EU Legislation of NIS jsc

Comments from the European Commission: Roderic van Voorst, Unit for International Relations and Enlargement at DG Energy

For the last energy discussion before the summer break, the EEF brought the EU’s neighbouring countries to the centre of the debate. NIS jsc, a company headquartered in Serbia, hosted a dinner-debate on the integration of the Western Balkans in meeting EU’s energy and climate objectives.

Towards EU targets

EEF members had the opportunity to listen to speakers with complementary expertise on the situation of the Western Balkans as regards energy, and later on to exchange views with them. Mr Slavcho Neykov is a former Director of the Energy Community Secretariat and has a long experience in the energy sector. He took the floor to elaborate on the challenges faced by the Energy Community Contracting Parties in implementing energy reforms. When it comes to energy, the Contracting Parties have to implement EU law on a legally-binding basis. However, they still face individual problems which also influence their cooperation.

In turn, Mr Nikola Radovanovic introduced EEF members to the activities developed by NIS to come closer to COP21 and EU energy and climate targets. The company has already put in place new projects and business operations which are consistent with the five pillars of the Energy Union. Taking the example of the Republic of Serbia, he recalled that some EU and pre-accession countries have very different heritages in terms of energy systems.

DG Energy was represented by Mr Roderic van Voorst who is responsible for the Western Balkans. Mr van Voorst provided an overview of some initiatives under progress to promote regional cooperation and the integration of the Western Balkans, such as high-level meetings in the framework of the Berlin Process, which started in 2014. In addition, a manifesto which advocates the expansion of regional cooperation in South-Eastern Europe was released by 16 MEPs in June 2016. The dinner-debate ended with a round of questions and answers which reflected the diversity of views among EEF members and MEPs present at the event.
60% renewable energy in the European power system - how can we make it work?

Speakers:
• Michel Matheu, Head of EU strategy at EDF European Affairs
• Dr Vera Paiva Da Silva, Research Program Director for Energy Systems and Markets at EDF R&D

Comments from the European Commission: Tomasz Jerzyniak, Policy Officer for internal market issues at DG Energy

The new season of events kicked off with a dinner-debate in Strasbourg focusing on the integration of renewables into the power system and hosted by EEF Associate Member EDF.

The European Union envisages the development and wide-scale deployment of low-carbon electricity generation from renewable energy sources (RES). The share of RES in the European energy mix is expected to reach 20% by 2020 and 27% by 2030.

Technical and economic challenges

In the light of this objective, EDF has conducted an in-depth study entitled “Technical and Economic Analysis of the European Electricity System with 60% RES”, which analyses what a 60% share of renewable electricity means for the European energy system. Michel Matheu, Head of EU strategy at EDF, presented the study concerning the introduction of a higher share of renewables. According to Mr Matheu, “if we want to decarbonize [the power sector] it’s not enough to use renewable sources, we need to have low carbon conventional baseload generation.”

Dr Vera Paiva Da Silva, Director at EDF R&D, elaborated on key findings of the study: the joint development of flexible backup generation and network infrastructure and the role of storage and flexible demand. In her conclusions, Ms Paiva Da Silva explained that generation “is not only a problem of meeting supply and demand (⋯) it’s also a matter of how can we operate from a technical point of view the system to avoid blackouts. (⋯) RES don’t naturally act to help the system and therefore the system becomes more fragile.” From an economic point of view, “the market revenue of renewables is lower and this gap becomes bigger when we increase the amount of RES in the system”, she explained.

After the presentation of the study, Tomasz Jerzyniak, Policy Officer for internal market issues at DG Energy highlighted three elements of the EC’s policy approach which are particularly relevant in this context: the implementation of a new electricity market design to enable price signals drive investments where needed, better coordination for the deployment of RES and increased efforts to develop a pan-European grid.
Dinner-debates

Transport policy options in a low-emission economy

**Speaker:** Khurram Gaba, Policy Planning Executive at ExxonMobil Refining & Supply

**Comments from the European Commission:** José Fernández García, Policy Officer at DG Mobility and Transport

This dinner-debate focused on the transport sector following the publication in July 2016 of the strategy for low-emission mobility by the European Commission. Transport represents almost a quarter of EU’s greenhouse gas emissions and non-ETS sectors, including transport, should reduce these emissions by 30% by 2030.

As explained by Khurram Gaba, Policy Planning Executive at ExxonMobil Refining & Supply, “transport is particularly challenging when it comes to lower emissions because the cost to reduce one ton of carbon in transport is significantly higher than to reduce by the same amount in other sectors, such as power generation.”

**Bearing economic, social and environmental costs**

ExxonMobil considers that this situation is not an “economically efficient approach” to achieve the 2030 target and proposes the implementation of some “market based linkages” between the ETS and the non-ETS sectors.

Mr Gaba also emphasized the need to give “equal weighting and importance to social, economic and environmental dimensions and look for policy pathways that seek to minimize societal cost, recognizing that ultimately the cost is borne by the consumer, by the taxpayer.”

The presentation of ExxonMobil’s representative was followed by the intervention of José Fernández García, Policy Officer at DG MOVE, who explained the position of the European Commission concerning emissions reduction in the transport sector and described the next steps of the revision of the Clean Vehicles Directive.

This directive requires that energy and environmental impacts linked to the operation of vehicles over their whole lifetime are taken into account in all purchases of road transport vehicles. It aims at stimulating the market for clean and energy-efficient vehicles.
Dinner-debates

A differentiated approach to ETS for highly exposed industries

Speaker: Javier Goñi del Cacho, President of Fertilizers Europe

October saw the adoption of ITRE Committee’s legislative opinion on the post-2020 reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS).

In this context, the EEF organised a dinner-debate focused on the revision of the EU ETS from the perspective of industries at risk of carbon and investment leakage.

The event was hosted by EEF Member Fertilizers Europe, the European association representing manufacturers of fertilizers. Javier Goñi del Cacho, President of Fertilizers Europe, opened the dinner-debate with an in-depth explanation on the production process of fertilizers which involves combining nitrogen from the air with hydrogen and the inherent release of carbon dioxide associated to it.

Taking technology into account

Despite having some of the most energy efficient plants in the world, the European fertilizer industry is very energy and trade intensive, and is therefore identified by the European Commission as one of the most exposed to carbon leakage. The industry is already facing investment leakage challenges because new production plants have been built outside of Europe, Javier Goñi pointed out.

Over the past decade, the European fertilizer industry has achieved over 50% of emission reductions. However, the industry feels constrained by technological progress in order to further cut CO₂ emissions. For the post-2020 ETS reform, Fertilizers Europe advocates for “benchmarks [which] should reflect achievable technical progress”.

A number of energy-intensive industries (chemical, cement, refining etc.) were also represented at the dinner-debate. The presentation launched a fruitful discussion on future technology options such as carbon-capture and storage and carbon utilisation as well as the need for an innovation fund.

Since the dinner-debate took place, the text concerning the ETS reform was adopted by the Committee of Environment of the European Parliament in December 2016 and the final vote in plenary session is foreseen for February 2017.
Smart Energy

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

Speakers:
- Dominique Ristori, Director General of DG Energy
- Folker Franz, Senior Vice-President for EU Public Affairs of ABB
- Roberto Zandrandi, Special Adviser of EDSO for Smart Grids

The European Energy Forum (EEF) and the European Internet Foundation (EIF) had already cooperated in the past to offer their members a forum to discuss the interaction between Energy and ICT. Never had a co-hosted event been so timely as this one, when Dominique Ristori, Director General for Energy at the European Commission, accepted the Fora invitation to address energy and ICT stakeholders on digitalisation, cybersecurity and the importance of placing consumers at the heart of EU policies.

A Digital Energy Union

MEP Pilar del Castillo, President of the EIF and Vice-President of the EEF, opened the floor by underlining the winning alliance between ICT and Energy both in terms of growth and competitiveness. In the same spirit, MEP Jerzy Buzek, President of the EEF, added that there can be "no Energy Union without Digital Union".

Technological development has enabled the emergence of a new bridge between the energy sector and the digital market. Director General Ristori stressed the importance of strengthening the synergies between the two sectors, as well as of accelerating the use of ICT in the energy system for three main reasons: modernizing and improving the efficiency of the energy sector, securing energy systems and allowing energy consumers to be active market players. The synergy between ICT and Energy can become a strong driver for innovation in Europe's industrial sectors.

To achieve this potential, the EU needs the right incentives and policy framework. Two representatives of the energy sector were invited to provide a business perspective on the links between energy and ICT. Folker Franz, representative of ABB, recalled that improving confidence and encouraging industry and grid operators to take new technologies into use are crucial to boost new synergies between the energy and the ICT sectors. According to Roberto Zangrandi, special adviser at EDSO for Smart Grids, "smart grids have to be digital grids". He insisted on the sensitivity about data collection and the need of a "strong ethical approach" when using and applying technical, commercial and personal data.
Electricity’s role in fostering emission reduction in the non-ETS sectors (Transport & Buildings)

Speakers:
- Hans ten Berge, Secretary General of EURELECTRIC
- Daniele Agostini, Head of Low Carbon and European Energy Policies at Enel

Comments from the European Commission: Dr Oliver Koch, Deputy Head of Unit for Gas and Electricity Wholesale Markets at DG Energy

Two EEF members, Enel and EURELECTRIC, showed the importance and interest of joining forces when organising energy discussions. The result of this collaboration was an extremely informative session which triggered a animated debate. The discussion focused on non-ETS sectors, notably buildings and transport, which have a target of 30% decarbonisation.

According to Hans ten Berge, Secretary General of EURELECTRIC, who was one of the keynote speakers at this dinner-debate, the current challenge now is to ask consumers to decarbonise.

Mr ten Berge explained that the decarbonisation of the generation assets “doesn’t make sense without the decarbonisation of the transport sector” by using electricity, hydrogen or biofuels as an alternative to fossil fuels, despite the price of these technologies is, at present, less competitive. Concerning buildings, the 60% dependence on fossil fuels in heating and cooling systems could be addressed through electrification, by promoting the use of heat pumps. However, the lack of a competitive electricity price is blocking the process. As explained by the head of EURELECTRIC, “surcharges for decarbonisation are all put in the electricity price”. This results in a retail electricity price 10 times higher than the wholesale price.

The second speaker, Daniele Agostini compared the multiplicity of benefits of electrification in the residential and transport sectors to the use of smart phones which can be employed for multiple purposes. As well as providing heating and cooling or enabling people’s circulation, heat pumps and electric vehicles can store and generate electricity to be released when needed into the grid. In addition, electrification is a possible response to security of supply challenges.

Oliver Koch, Deputy Head of Unit for Gas and Electricity Wholesale Markets at DG Energy, highlighted the importance of automation in buildings in the coming years. On transport, he recalled that the Commission is putting in place strategies on emissions standards and plug standardisation. He concluded by stressing the importance of the market framework in both sectors, as well as the need to break with some dogmas in the current moment of transition, such as support to long-term contracts and renewables subsidies.
Gas and Renewables: the right combination for a sustainable future?

Speakers:
- Jo Peters, IOGP EU Board Member
- Torben Brabo, GIE Board Member
- François-Xavier Dugripón, EUROGAS Member

Comments from the European Commission: Tom Howes, Deputy Head of Unit for Economic Analysis and Financial Instruments at DG Energy

Remarks by François-Régis Mouton, GasNaturally Chairman

This dinner-debate organized during the GasWeek 2016 brought together four EEF Members representing the whole European gas value chain, from exploration to consumer issues. Through a comprehensive approach, an international panel of experts explored how gas and renewables can be combined to achieve the energy transition.

Innovation and investments

Jo Peters, Board Member of the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP), took a close look at potential synergies between gas and wind. Gas platforms in the North Sea can serve as hosting transformers and distribute electricity from offshore wind farms. In the future, excess energy from wind farms could be converted into gas and transported through the existing gas transmission network. François-Régis Mouton, GasNaturally Chairman, identified Power-to-Gas, the conversion of electrical power into hydrogen or methane, as "the missing link between gas and renewables".

In turn, Torben Brabo representing Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE) put emphasis on the benefits of natural gas in terms of storage capacities and transport cost. In the view of GIE, the integration of biogas in the existing gas infrastructure is also an option to be further developed in the future.

François-Xavier Dugripón, representative of Eurogas, added that innovation in biogas can help pave the way to decentralized waste management by transforming waste into green power locally. Gas will be increasingly "renewable, clean and local", he said.

The final presentation by Tom Howes, Deputy Head of Unit for Economic Analysis and Financial Instruments at DG Energy, put into perspective detailed predictions about the declining domestic production of gas and the growing share of gas in power generation. This observation raised the question of investments and launched a dynamic debate on subsidies and drivers for investment between industry representatives and European legislators.
Dinner-debates

Poland - from a 'gas island' to the European gas hub?

**Speaker:** Piotr Wozniak, President of PGNiG

**Comments from the European Commission:** Stefan Moser, Head of Unit for Security of Supply at DG Energy

The EEF concluded the calendar of events for 2016 with a discussion on gas supplies in Poland hosted by PGNiG, a Polish company whose core business includes the exploration and production of natural gas.

The discussion put on the table the dependence of the entire CEE region (Central Eastern Europe) on Russia as a dominant supplier. According to PGNiG, this situation has resulted in disruptions in gas deliveries, prices higher than for Western Europe and increased uncertainty to guarantee energy security. The region is now looking to secure affordable gas supplies to satisfy its demand with projects such as the Northern Gateway, which involves the construction of an off-shore pipeline (Baltic Pipe), its connection via Denmark to Norway and an extension to Poland.

Securing gas supplies

As explained by Piotr Wozniak, President of PGNiG and keynote speaker of the dinner-debate, this initiative would be complementary to the already existing infrastructure projects conducting Russian gas: Nord Stream which comes directly from Russia, Yamal which involves transmission through Poland and Brotherhood which flows through Ukraine. The Commission is now adjusting the gas capacity allocated to these different pipelines.

Stefan Moser, Head of Unit for Security of Supply at DG Energy, who took the floor after PGNiG’s presentation, recognised that with a declining EU gas production, diversification and cooperation between Member States and the Energy Community is key to reinforce security of supply. In this sense, the Northern Gateway would become a game changer, together with the development of other infrastructure projects and the exploitation of LNG terminals.

These interventions opened the floor to numerous remarks, comments and questions from the audience. The lively debate which followed the presentations was a proof of the sensitivity of the topic addressed, which concerned gas supplies, solidarity among Member States and relations with neighbouring countries.
Briefings for MEP Assistants

Ensuring EU’s Security of Supply

The European Energy Forum (EEF) organized a briefing for MEP Assistants to analyse how the EU is answering the challenge of securing energy supplies. To cover the issue in the most exhaustive way, this informative seminar was held into two distinctive but complementary sessions: The first one on 23 June focused on security of gas supply and the second one on 30 June was dedicated to electricity.

This seminar was organized in cooperation with the Joint Research Center of the European Commission which dedicates 25% of its research activities to the energy field. EEF Associate Members were actively involved in the preparation of both sessions.

**Session one: gas**

In this session chaired by MEP Jerzy Buzek, a panel of speakers from different energy associations and companies provided participants with an overview of gas supply in Europe and its neighbouring countries. They looked into the challenges and possible solutions for developing the necessary gas infrastructure, analysed the role of LNG and gas storage in this new scenario and explained how this situation is affecting the gas market and gas consumers.

**Session two: electricity**

The second session provided an overall picture of the EU power system and introduced the links and differences with the gas system. The panel of experts looked into the responses of the different technologies to guarantee security of supply and analysed the economic aspects affecting the electricity market from the point of view of power and technology producers.

In both sessions, the JRC presented facts and information based on the studies and projects they have been recently carrying out on the topic. The presentations from the speakers were followed by a Q&A session that allowed participants to provide their comments and ask their questions to the panel in the most interactive way.
The European Energy Forum organized a study visit to Canada at the request of its Active Members to discuss the potential of the circular economy and carbon capture and storage (CCS). In line with the mission of the EEF which is to offer a place for information for MEPs and energy stakeholders, this visit provided the group with an excellent opportunity to see some concrete examples of what is being done in an innovative country and to learn about CCS technologies, enhanced oil recovery, waste treatment and biofuels.

The EEF delegation was composed of MEPs and their advisors as well as Associate Members of the EEF representing the industry and it was led by MEP Lambert van Nistelrooij, Member of the Committee on Regional Development. Through the different energy projects visited, EEF delegates had the opportunity to discuss the regional approach of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta in terms of energy, environment and financial issues.

In Canada, it is all about more and more technological progress for creating a more sustainable economy. Most impressive during the visit for me has been the world's first facility that is capable of converting plastics into biofuels (methanol and ethanol). This breakthrough plant in Edmonton, Alberta province, which has been certified on the ISCC standards, has partly a European origin. The company Enerkem works with patents obtained in Europe but for which there is insufficient capital and interest. Now with this good example in Canada the technology comes back to Europe in the first plant in the EU, for which preparations are ongoing in Rotterdam. We see that Europe is a frontrunner when it comes to knowledge but too often we leave the up-scaling to countries and businesses outside Europe.

Lambert van Nistelrooij, MEP

The two resource-rich provinces have already addressed many energy challenges and are known to be at the forefront of innovation. Meetings with policy-makers, industry and NGO representatives provided participants with all the factual and technical information whereas a discussion with Alberta Energy Minister offered an in-depth understanding of regional energy, climate and economy policy challenges.

After a long journey, the delegation started the tour in Regina, Saskatchewan, on 20th September with an early morning introductory session led by Mr. Steven Bonk, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) and Legislative Secretary to the Minister of the Economy. An exchange of views took place with Mr. Warren Steinley, MLA, Mr. Guy Bruce, Vice-President, Planning, Environment and Sustainable Development at SaskPower and Mr. Ian Yeates, Director of Supply Development Carbon Capture at SaskPower. SaskPower is the leading energy supplier in the province responsible for supplying nearly 500,000 customers.

The visit continued at Boundary Dam 3 in Estevan to see the world’s first post-combustion CCS project operating at commercial-scale. The CO₂ captured at the refurbished Unit 3 is sold and used for enhanced oil recovery - the injection of compressed carbon dioxide into oil reservoirs to enhance production. Unsold CO₂ is stored deep underground at the Aquistore storage site.

“It is a pleasure to participate in the visit and to have an unique opportunity to discuss in a very instructive manner such crucial and timely global issues as transition to a green economy, R&I in the areas of energy and environment, and the deployment of new energy technologies. Canada has valuable experience and high-level expertise in this respect from which the EU can learn. The Quest project of CCS in Alberta with a capacity to capture 1.08 million tonnes of CO2 and to store it permanently 2 kilometres below the surface already proved to be well functioning. Hence, it may serve as the example of successful deployment of controversial yet revolutionary technology. I believe an enhanced energy dialogue where the EU and Canada can share the know-how and the experience would be to the benefit of both parties.

Miroslav Mikolasik, MEP

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Miroslav Mikolasik, MEP
Site visit

The group received an extensive explanation on the process as well as an introduction on the Weyburn-Midale Monitoring and Storage Project. This project supported by the IEA Greenhouse Gas R&D Programme was one of the world’s first research programmes to examine the effects of injecting and storing CO₂ into geologic reservoirs. Following Weyburn-Midale completion in 2012, Aquistore is Canada’s first deep saline CO₂ storage project.

In the evening, the delegation travelled to Edmonton, Alberta, to pursue the visit. On 21st September, they visited the Quest pre-combustion CCS project, a fully-integrated facility which captures, transports, injects and stores carbon dioxide. Quest is designed to capture and store about one third of the emissions from the Scotford Upgrader which produces synthetic crude oil from bitumen. Shell’s power plant was hosting members of the Global CCS Institute the same day. This gave an opportunity to the delegation to exchange points of views with experts from all around the world.

In the afternoon, the group met with a panel of young experts from the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Economic Development & Trade and two non-governmental organizations, Energy Futures Lab and Pembina Institute, to talk about energy innovation. Having addressed the more technical aspects at Boundary Dam and Quest, the meeting was an occasion to reflect on issues related to carbon capture and storage such as financing, carbon price, global foot print of production plants and the application of CSS to other industries.

This session also allowed for a detailed discussion on what is being undertaken in Alberta to develop clean technologies, integrate renewable energy sources and create new platforms for innovation and knowledge-sharing where innovators from different fields join in an effort to shape a low carbon future. The social issue of coping with unemployment and professional retraining was also touched upon.

To close the day, the EEF delegation attended a high-level dinner-discussion with Alberta Minister of Energy, Hon. Margaret McCuaig-Boyd. In her speech, the minister stressed the long-lasting innovative attitude of Alberta as an energy provider. Traditionally, Albertans have felt concerned about energy. Ms. McCuaig-Boyd commented on the Climate Leadership Plan of Alberta, a new policy response to climate change that will be key in determining how the province can be a leader in tackling climate change. The minister showed a great openness towards the European objectives and insisted that exchanges of views such as the one happening that evening were of utmost importance.

The discussion with Alberta Minister of Energy proved to be an ideal transition to the next site visit on 22nd September focused on waste diversion, the promotion of the circular economy and the example of a city’s involvement in such a project.

The delegation took a tour at Enerkem Alberta Biofuels, a facility which produces biofuels and renewable chemicals from the carbon contained in non-recyclable household waste. This facility is an example of successful collaboration between a city and the industry to address the challenge of waste faced all over the world. Through partnership with the city of Edmonton, the facility is on track to increase the waste diversion rate from 50% to 90%. In August 2016, it has become the first ISCC - International Sustainability and Carbon Certification -certified plant in the world to convert municipal solid waste into biomethanol. This certification recognizes that biofuels produced at the facility in Edmonton are compliant with the European Renewable Energy Directive and can therefore be exported to the EU.

In the afternoon, the group was received in the prestigious Legislature Building of Alberta by Ms. Heather Sweet, Deputy Chair of Committees. In an open conversation with Mr. Loyola, Dr. Turner, Mr. MacIntyre and Mr. Anderson, elected Members of the Legislative Assembly, EEF delegates learned of schemes implemented at the level of Canadian constituencies to comply with the objectives of the Climate Leadership Plan. Members of the Legislative Assembly equally showed a real interest in understanding the EU’s approach and priorities when it comes to energy and climate.

The visit to Edmonton concluded with a broader discussion on economic development at the city level with Glen Vanstone, Vice-President of Trade & Investment at Edmonton Economic Development Corporation. The roundtable allowed for reflection on the role of cities as engines of growth and change.

*The visit was an extremely productive one; we learned a lot both about CCS projects which have been successfully rolled out in Canada, and new legislation aiming to limit the impact of climate change. Policy learning is a crucial part of better law making here in the EU.*

Ian Duncan, MEP
Meetings with members

The EEF holds a number of internal meetings throughout the year to set up the programme of events, based on members proposals, and discuss issues concerning the internal management of the association.

The internal meetings are organised taking into account the different levels of governance:

- 2 Bureau meetings with the EEF President, the Vice-Presidents and Treasurer took place in February and October in Strasbourg.
- 1 Board meeting with the Bureau and the EEF Directors was held in March in Strasbourg.
- 1 General Assembly with all Active Members (Bureau + Directors + all other MEPs who are members of the EEF) was organised in May in Strasbourg.
- 2 Industrial Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) meetings with the EEF Board and Associate Members took place in April and October in Brussels.

The active involvement of EEF members is crucial for the smooth functioning of the association and their feedback and recommendations are taken into account for future improvements.

Active Members

President  
Jerzy Buzek  
EPP, Poland

Treasurer  
Julie Girling  
ECR, United Kingdom

Vice Presidents  
Pilar del Castillo Vera  
EPP, Spain  
S&D, United Kingdom
Neena Gill  
S&D, Finland  
EPP, Germany
Herbert Reul  
EPP, Austria
Paul Rübig  
EPP, Bulgaria
Vladimir Urutchev

Directors  
Daniel Caspary  
EPP, Germany  
ECR, United Kingdom
Vicky Ford  
ECR, United Kingdom  
EFDD, United Kingdom
Jo Leinen  
S&D, Germany  
ALDE, Denmark
Morten Helweg Petersen  
S&D, Denmark
Inese Vaidere  
EPP, Latvia  
EPP, Netherlands

Active Members  
Richard Ashworth  
ECR, United Kingdom  
ECR, Slovenia
Franc Bogovič  
ECR, United Kingdom  
ECR, United Kingdom
Ian Duncan  
ECR, United Kingdom  
ALDE, Netherlands
Ashley Fox  
EPP, Poland  
ENF, Austria
Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy  
EPP, Germany  
EPP, Hungary
Adam Gierek  
S&D, Poland  
ENF, Austria
András Gyürk  
EPP, Slovakia  
S&D, Hungary
Barbara Kappel  
ECR, Germany  
Greens/EFA, Croatia
Krišjānis Karūtš  
ECR, Czech Republic  
S&D, United Kingdom
Werner Langen  
EPP, Finland  
EPP, Finland
Miroslav Mikolášik  
EPP, Slovakia  
S&D, Hungary
Csaba Molnár  
S&D, United Kingdom  
Greens/EFA, Croatia
AngelikaNiebler  
ECR, Czech Republic  
S&D, United Kingdom
Davor Škrlec  
EPP, Croatia  
EPP, Czech Republic
Evžen Tolenovský  

Derek Vaughan  
Henna Virkkunen
The EEF welcomes companies, associations, energy-intensive industries, research organisations and regulators operating in the energy field. The activities carried out by EEF members include regulation, research, exploration, production, transmission, distribution and storage of all different energy sources, but also energy intensive industrial production.

**Associate Members**

- 3M
- ABB
- AEGPL Europe
- AREVA
- BDEW (German Association of Energy and Water Industries)
- BP
- CEA (Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission)
- CEEP (Central Europe Energy Partners)
- CEER (Council of European Energy Regulators)
- CEFIC (European Chemical Industry Council)
- Centrica
- CEWEP (Confederation of European Waste-to-Energy Plants)
- CEZ Group
- Chevron
- COGEN Europe (European Association for the Promotion of Cogeneration)
- Consorzio RFX
- Danish Energy Association
- EASE (European Association for Storage of Energy)
- EDF
- EDSO for Smart Grids (European Distribution System Operators)
- ENEDIS (French Electricity Grid Distributor)
- ENEL
- E-Control (Austrian Regulator)
- Energiföretagen Sverige - Swedenergy
- Eni
- ENTSO-E (European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity)
- ENTSOG (European Network for Transmission System Operators of Gas)
- E.ON
- EPPSA (European Power Plant Suppliers Association)
- ETN (European Turbine Network)
- EUGNE (European Engine Power Plants Association)
- EURACOAL (European Association for Coal and Lignite)
- EURELICT (Association of the electricity industry in Europe)
- Eurogas (Association of the gas industry in Europe)
- EUTurbines (European association of the gas and steam turbine manufacturers)
- EWE
- ExxonMobil
- Fertilizers Europe (Association of fertilizer producers in Europe)
- Finnish Energy
- FORATOM (European Atomic Forum)
- FoSS (Friends of the Supergrid)
- FuelEurope
- Gas Natural Fenosa
- GEODE (Association of local energy distributors in Europe)
- GIE (Gas Infrastructure Europe)
- GROF (Gas Distribution System Operators in France)
- Hellenic Petroleum
- Hitachi
- HR Wallingford
- IBERDROLA
- INTER RAO
- IOGP (International Association of Oil & Gas Producers)
- Landis+Gyr
- Lukoil
- NIS (Naftna Industrija Srbije)
- National Grid Belgium
- Naftogaz of Ukraine
- Neste
- OMV
- PGNiG (Polish Oil and Gas Company)
- PKEE (Polish Electricity Association)
- PKN Orlen
- Repsol
- RTE (French Transmission System Operator)
- RWE
- Shell
- SFR Energy
- Snam
- Statoil
- The Dow Chemical Company
- Total
- Tractebel Engineering
- UFE (French Union of Electricity)
- Wärtsilä Corporation
- Westinghouse Electric Company
- Wintershall
EEF Secretariat

Pascale Verheust
Director General
Tel. +32 2 773 93 39  Mobile  +32 475 85 34 27
pascale.verheust@europeanenergyforum.eu

Maud Michiels
Administrative and Financial Advisor
Tel. +32 2 773 95 38
maud.michiels@europeanenergyforum.eu

Ángela Sainz Arnau
Communications and Events Officer
Tel. +32 2 773 95 36
angela.sainz@europeanenergyforum.eu

Pauline Maldague
Projects and Events Officer
Tel. +32 2 773 95 22
pauline.maldague@europeanenergyforum.eu

Samuele Furfari, Advisor to the Deputy Director General at DG Energy, has been delegated by the European Commission as the person in charge of the relations with the European Energy Forum.