2018 provided a lot of food for thought for the European Energy Forum’s debates. With many votes and numerous trilogues on various pieces of legislation - from renewable energy and Electricity Market Design, through the Energy Union Governance and energy efficiency to the Gas Directive and ACER - needless to say that this year has been a busy one in terms of work, negotiations and discussions.

The support for the Forum continues to grow. Our current Board consists of MEPs representing 12 nationalities and 7 different parties of the European Parliament. This is a real asset for our discussion as well as a great achievement in terms of diversity of points of views - and we are committed to follow this path in the future.

The European Commission has, in the last 5 years, played a key role in our debates. I thank particularly warmly Maroš Šefčovič - Vice-President for the Energy Union, Miguel Arias Cañete - Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy and last but not least Dominique Ristori - Director General of DG Energy, for their continuous commitment to provide a valuable input to our debates - by speaking at the EEF dinners or delegating their representatives to outline DG Energy’s perspective on various issues.

Our cooperation with other Directorate Generals is also growing as the topics for discussion are becoming wider and more complex - including, among others, innovation, transport, climate and environment issues.

Our guest speakers bring the knowledge, educate us and answer our questions, which allows us to broaden our vision. However, the success of the events lies with our members, both my colleague MEPs and our Associate Members - industry representatives. It is their involvement and contributions that make the EEF an efficient and quite an unique platform for exchange and cooperation uniting various energy stakeholders.

I look with optimism at 2019, a year that will see a lot of changes in the Parliament, with the elections in May, and subsequently with the appointment of a new Commission. I am convinced that New Year will also bring a lot of opportunities to broaden and strengthen our cooperation even further.
As part of the international commitment under the Paris Agreement, the European Union is making progress in the shift towards cleaner energy systems and the decarbonisation of our economies.

Throughout the course of 2018, the European Parliament completed the approval of legislation aimed at compliance with the Energy Union’s targets for 2030. This legislation, and other non-legislative measures proposed and implemented by the European Commission, will boost innovation in clean energy solutions. The European Energy Forum, in its role as an open assembly for all energy stakeholders, undoubtedly contributed to making this happen and encouraging those stakeholders to looking beyond short-term objectives.

The European Union, along with some of its global partners, is now taking a mission-led approach to encourage such energy innovation. This approach recognises the need to increase overall investments in deep-tech energy innovations, to reduce financial risks and to improve the effectiveness of joint public and private funding to spur developments in clean energy. The European Commission is proposing new initiatives to do this within its Horizon Europe proposal, such as the European Innovation Council. We are looking forward to cooperating with international partners to consolidate this experience in the clean energy field.

Building on this theme of co-investment, the Commission recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Breakthrough Energy, led by Bill Gates. A joint investment fund of €100 million will be set up to help innovative European companies develop and bring radically new clean energy technologies to the market. Though small in comparison to the magnitude of the energy transition challenge, the engagement of non-European private investors in EU-funded technology options is a recognition of the EU’s leadership and competitiveness in climate change mitigation.

Therefore, as 2018 draws to a close, and with Horizon Europe proposing even greater resources and investment for clean energy, I am confident that Europe is moving towards the development of a more sustainable energy infrastructure. With the

Carlos Moedas
COMMISSIONER
Research, Science and Innovation
Miapetra Kumpula-Natri – S&D, Finland
«Participating in the EEF presents a wonderful opportunity for exchanging views and hearing the latest insight from experts on a wide range of EU energy policy topics. I have enjoyed our discussions and getting to know other EEF members and stakeholders.»

Paul Rübig – EPP, Austria
«I thank the European Energy Forum for its attractive events which are able to provoke and make the right questions arise, as well as to facilitate cooperation and coordination in energy policy and production amongst the European Member States, with our friends in the neighbour states and on global level.»

Vladimir Urutchev – EPP, Bulgaria
«The European Energy Forum is a most valuable, informative and pleasant entity to support and attend. It is the only forum of its kind where MEPs, Commission Officials and members of industry are all equal in their opportunity to debate energy issues of the day. Congratulations on another very successful year.»

Barbara Kappel – ENF, Austria
«The dinner-debate on the future of DSO identified the integration of highly volatile, decentralized generated energy from renewable sources, expansion and modernization of current to smart grids, the roll-out of intelligent measuring systems and the integration of e-mobility facilities as major challenges for the industry.»

Jaromír Kohlíček – GUE/NGL, Czech Republic
«Within the EEF experience I like the discussions with skilled people, engineers, and experts dealing with real problems of technical and economical items of energetics, both conventional and new concepts. This brings to me more understanding of different stakeholders’ reasoning as well as Committee high ranking employees’ ideas. It helps me better understand how to favourably influence the sector development.»
Jo Leinen – S&D, Germany
«The EEF is organizing a wide range of topics to present and to debate. I profit very much from the stakeholders of energy supply, energy distribution and energy consumption. This is a big help for my work in the relevant Environment Committee (ENVI). I am looking forward to new dinner debates in 2019.»

Davor Škrlec – Greens/EFA, Croatia
«The responsibility towards future generations requires us to invest, without any hesitation, in the transition of our energy and transport sectors in order to reduce all harmful emissions into the environment. The mentioned transition should stimulate the development of innovations and new technologies, it should be fair for EU regions that are dependent on fossil fuels and are poor, and should allow all EU citizens to actively participate in the energy transition in a sustainable and cost-effective way.»

Inese Vaidere – EPP, Latvia
«This was one of the most interesting and lively dinner-debates. I had a pleasure to be part of, it gathered at least three different points of view that almost represent the «3G model» of the complex, yet very timely and useful debate.»
8 October 2018 · Dinner debate on clean energy islands

Lambert van Nistelrooij – EPP, Netherlands
«The EEF has an outstanding reputation of bringing policy makers and captains of industry together to discuss societal energy questions. They provide a necessary forum where exchanging ideas leads to solutions on the table. Next to the high-level debates, the EEF also organises valuable working visits underlining the Innovation Principle. Through these visits, we managed to introduce already existing practices in Europe, such as Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) and the waste-to-energy process.»
2018 has been a year full of stimulating events organised for our Members together with them and thanks to their valuable support. As always, we have touched upon a broad range of issues to offer a 360° view on the current energy situation of the EU, while maintaining our neutral approach. Our debates are meant to provide an enriching experience with an open and lively dialogue on energy.

We are glad to present you a summary of our 2018 activity. Through this Activity Report, we also wish to provide you with a presentation of the EEF, its DNA, vision and values, its Members and experience. Enjoy your reading!

Pascale Verheust, Director General
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EEF EXPERIENCE

Taking part to one of the EEF activities is not simply about attending conferences or information sessions. It is about making an interactive and enriching experience based on an open and lively dialogue on energy. This is what the EEF strives to provide its Members with. Everything we do reflects who we are: a non-profit organisation that deeply values information exchanges and a holistic attitude, while constantly working to improve its expertise.
KNOWLEDGE – SHARING

Knowledge-sharing represents both the cornerstone and the main objective of EEF activity. By promoting dialogue and exchange of expertise, the EEF aims at informing EU decision-makers on energy-related issues. It provides MEPs with a chance to openly discuss with all stakeholders, so as to take decisions based on accurate information and a variety of points of view.

The program of EEF activities thus considers the EU political agenda, reflecting the work of EU institutions. At the same time, stakeholders with different perspectives and interests, who would otherwise not necessarily meet, are given an occasion to understand each other’s position and to work together in a constructive way. Our knowledge-sharing process is based on three pillars: meet, get informed and debate.

#MEET
EEF discussions bring together a diverse community of members of the European Parliament, industries, business experts and other professionals engaged in the energy sector as well as the European Commission and diplomatic representatives.

#GET INFORMED
The energy landscape is in constant evolution, therefore access to timely information is constantly required. Through the contribution of international experts, each discussion focusses on subjects on top of the EU energy, climate or transport agenda. To make these exchanges of information valuable, the EEF welcomes different points of view.

#DEBATE
During the discussions, all participants have the possibility to ask questions, express opinions and exchange views in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, which favours a proactive and fruitful debate.


360 °C ATTITUDE

Adopting a holistic approach at any stage of its activity really matters to the EEF. We believe the most effective and successful way to achieve the EU goals of clean, secure, efficient and competitive energy is by equally including and considering all the actors, aspects and issues of the energy dimension. No one and no subject should be left behind or forgotten in the discussion on our common European energy future.

In line with this belief, all the companies working in the energy sector, independently from their branch of activity, as well as all MEPs, from any political party, are given the same opportunity to join our Forum. All EEF members evidently enjoy the same importance and their own contributions to the activities are equally valued and appreciated, since each of them enhances the sharing of knowledge, opinion and information we want to provide.

Consistent with a 360° attitude, the subjects dealt with at our events are very diverse, so as to cover all the angles of the energy landscape. The Forum does not take any position on particular matters nor issues public statements.
EXPERTISE

The EEF daily work is based on more than 20 years of experience in the organization of dinner-debates, discussions and information visits on energy subjects. This lasting experience has enabled us to keep on improving the quality of our different activities in order to adapt them to the fast-changing EU energy system, although remaining firmly anchored to our basic principles.
The European Energy Forum community is quite a large one. It includes Active Members, Associate Members, the EEF Team, and the EEF Network. Its amplitude and its eclecticism are what make it richer: the more diverse our viewpoints are, the more valuable and stimulating the exchange of information will be!
#EEF ACTIVE MEMBERS

The EEF Active Members are MEPs interested in energy topics. Although most of them are part of the Energy (ITRE) or the Environment (ENVI) Committees of the European Parliament, this is not always the case. The EEF indeed has a tradition of welcoming in its active membership MEPs from any Committee, Country or political party, provided they wish to be informed on energy subjects.

Active members are key to the well-functioning of the EEF. They define work programme and attend EEF events on a regular basis. Their active involvement adds greater value to all organized activities, as it shows they appreciate the importance of the EEF as a platform for discussions, information and exchanges of views.

The EEF currently counts 37 Active Members. At the governance level, the EEF has a Bureau and a Board of Directors. The Board and the EEF President are elected every five years, during the EEF General Assembly which follows the European elections. The Board of Directors is composed of Active Members of various nationalities and from different political groups.

The Bureau is composed of the President, Treasurer and Vice-Presidents. It meets several times a year to discuss the EEF activity.

A bit of History: In almost 25 years of existence, the EEF counted 3 different presidents, showing diversity in terms of countries and political spectrum. Rolf Linkohr, S&D, Germany (1995-2004); Giles Chichester, EPP and subsequently ECR, UK (2004-2014) and Jerzy Buzek, EPP, Poland (2014 - ).
ACTIVE MEMBERS

Ashworth Richard - EPP, UK
Bendtsen Bendt - EPP, Denmark
Bogovic Franc - EPP, Slovenia
Bușoi Cristian-Silviu - EPP, Romania
Fox Ashley - ECR, UK
Gerbrandy Gerben-Jan - ALDE, Netherlands
Gierek Adam - S&D, Poland
Gyürk András - EPP, Hungary
Kariņš Krišjānis - EPP, Latvia
Kelly Seán - EPP, Ireland
Krasnodębski Zdzisław - ECR, Poland
Langen Werner - EPP, Germany
Mikolášik Miroslav - EPP, Slovakia
Molnár Csaba - S&D, Hungary
Niebler Angelika - EPP, Germany
Salini Massimiliano - EPP, Italy
Schulze Sven - EPP, Germany
Spyraki Maria - EPP, Greece
Vaughan Derek - S&D, UK
Virkkunen Henna - EPP, Finland

DIRECTORS

Caspary Daniel - EPP, Germany
Kappel Barbara - ENF, Austria
Kohlíček Jaromír - GUE/NGL, Czech Republic
Kouroumbashev Peter - S&D, Bulgaria
Leinen Jo - S&D, Germany
Petersen Morten Helveg - ALDE, Denmark
Škrlec Davor - Greens/EFA, Croatia
Tošenovský Evžen - ECR, Czech Republic
Vaidere Inese - EPP, Latvia
van Nistelrooij Lambert - EPP, Netherlands

VICE PRESIDENTS

del Castillo Vera Pilar - EPP, Spain
Gill Neena - S&D, UK
Kumpula-Natri Miapetra - S&D, Finland
Rübig Paul - EPP, Austria
Urutchev Vladimir - EPP, Bulgaria

Buzek Jerzy President - EPP, Poland
Girling Julie Treasurer - EPP, UK
#EEF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

EEF Associate Members are companies from the energy sector, but also associations, energy-intensive industries, regulators or research organisations operating in the energy field. They all contribute essentially to the life of the EEF. They participate actively in each EEF activity and help building up the programme for the year.

The EEF deeply values the Members’ support, which is fundamental in providing useful information on the particular energy subjects. At present, the EEF has the pleasure to work for and cooperate with 86 Associate Members all over Europe and beyond.

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The EEF Members can liaise with a broad network of people interested in the topics. This includes the European Parliament, the Commission, the Council of the European Union, the Permanent Missions and Representations to the EU, but also other institutions from the EU or outside, involved or interested in the EU energy dimension.

The participants in our activities can benefit from an exchange of views potentially involving a global dimension. The EEF remains focused on the energy needs and reality of the European Union, but the amplitude of its network is key as it allows its members to gather the best ideas and practices on a large scale.
The strength of the EEF team lies in its multi-tasked and multi-talented nature, as well as in its highly cooperative spirit.

All members of the team have a diverse and sound background knowledge, thanks to which they are able to complement themselves, as several valuable pieces of a multi-coloured puzzle. By enhancing their personal skills through their cooperation in the daily work, they can successfully carry out all the required tasks.

The life of an association is very diverse. The EEF team takes care of the core business of the EEF, the events, from A to Z which requires knowledge, attention, communication skills and a good degree of expertise. The team keeps up with the changing world and manages to understand and meet all the different visual and communication needs. Research on the EU political environment and on the energy field is a necessary part of the work. This enables the EEF team to have a clear overview on the topics under discussion in the parliament and to better satisfy the needs of information of the EEF members.

**#LISTENING #ADVISING #TEAM SPIRIT**

**Pascale Verheust** - Director General  
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pascale.verheust@europeanenergyforum.eu

**Maud Michiels** - Administrative & Financial Advisor  
Tel. +32 (0)2 227 04 61  
maud.michiels@europeanenergyforum.eu

**Gabrielle Lelievre** - Events & Communication  
Tel. +32 (0)2 227 04 63  
gabrielle.lelievre@europeanenergyforum.eu
In 2018, the EEF took part in the EU Erasmus + traineeship programme, which supports traineeships abroad for students currently enrolled in higher education institutions in Programme countries, as well as for recent graduates. The project offers students and companies all over the EU the possibility to meet and work together, but it is much more than just a working experience. By involving giving and receiving, sharing values, cultures and viewpoints, it enables trainees to better understand the value of cross-cultural cooperation as well as that of the European Union as an enriching reality which keeps citizens united in diversity.

The EEF signed a Learning Agreement with the University of Florence to receive two students attending the Master Course in International Relations and European Studies at the “Cesare Alfieri” School of Political Science, offering them the opportunity to do their 3 months internship within the Forum. Giuditta stayed with us during the autumn season of events (September-November), and we will soon welcome Luca in mid-January 2019.

The recently concluded internship period with Giuditta enabled us to better understand the value of the Erasmus+. The EEF team made every effort to provide her with the possibility to get the best out of her internship. In return, Giuditta provided the team with her knowledge, fresh ideas and eagerness to learn and do a good job.
EEF ACTIVITIES

The EEF offers its Members the possibility to take part in a variety of activities: dinner-debates, study visits and briefings. Although through different formats, all these activities aim to achieve the same goal of providing a place for education, knowledge-sharing and information exchange.

The EEF events are places where the Industry can provide general information, explain its vision, and answer the questions raised by the MEPs or other industry representatives. The diversity of EEF membership makes it so that there is always, in the audience, different views represented.
#DEBATES
At the core of the EEF activities, debates are energy discussions taking place at the European Parliament premises. They are held around twice a month: once in Brussels and once in Strasbourg. The topic for discussion, linked to the EP agenda, is directly proposed by the EEF member hosting the dinner-debate. A short neutral informative overview of the energy subject is provided by the EEF in the factsheet distributed to all guests. During the event, the topic is firstly introduced through one short presentation by a high-level speaker from the hosting company. When appropriate, a second speaker makes a complementary statement. An intervention from the European Commission follows, aimed at offering its perspective as well as information on the relevant EU legislative framework. The dinner-debate ends with the Q&A session: everyone is invited to give his/her personal contribution to ensure a lively and fruitful discussion. To provide a relaxed and open atmosphere, dinner-debates always occur under Chatham House Rule. At every event, the EEF welcomes between 50 and 100 stakeholders, with an average of 9 MEPs attending.

#VISITS
Better than the virtual reality, EEF visits are organized in order to show the EEF members, both active and associate, the reality of the Industry, bringing them onsite where everything happens. These visits usually involve meetings with a number of relevant representatives from local governments, civil society and NGOs within the broader aim of informing and educating participants on the technological aspects linked to specific policy discussions. To provide a global view of the energy sphere, these excursions are organized both within and outside the EU borders. In enabling EEF members to get to know the tangible aspects of energy reality, this experience also helps them to understand more deeply and more closely the concrete and daily impact their actions or decisions are likely to have.

#BRIEFING SESSIONS
Having a good understanding of energy is a necessary point of departure to be able to discuss and understand energy issues. The EEF is always keen on organizing briefing sessions for Active Members assistants and advisors, to provide them with information on a specific energy-related topic. These activities are developed in cooperation with EEF Associate Members, strengthening the cooperation between the political and industrial levels at the basis of the Forum’s community. Briefing sessions take place at the Parliament premises in Brussels. The energy subject is presented by several experts and a Q&A session follows, giving participants the opportunity to ask questions and provide their points of view on the issue through an interactive and learning discussion.
Our team makes sure that this experience is unfolding in the best conditions, following several crucial steps of organisation.

All associate members can contact the European Energy Forum team with a topic proposal.

All proposals are submitted to the Board.

Thanks to its expertise, the EEF is able to guide the host and choose the best date for the event, which is based on the Associate Members preference, always following the EU agenda.

The EEF takes care of all other required organisational and logistical aspects, making sure everything goes smoothly and ends up being a success.

A poster completes the communication providing the event with a visual identity. This new way of communicating gives an additional strength to the EEF strategy and reinforces the promotion of EEF events. It is published in the Parliament inviting all MEPs to attend.
EVENTS 2018

Looking ahead to a new year in Energy policy
Monday 22 January 2018, Brussels - Hosted by the EEF

Urban air quality & traffic emission : How EURO 6d & emission control technology will address the problem
Tuesday 6 February 2018, Strasbourg - Hosted by FuelsEurope

Research & Innovation :
An evening discussion with the Commissioner Moedas
Tuesday 20 February 2018, Brussels - Hosted by the EEF

Transition to low-emission steel: making the energy market fit for the industrial future
Tuesday 20 March 2018, Brussels - Hosted by EUROFER

The fight against climate change as an opportunity for Europe
Monday 23 April 2018, Brussels - Hosted by IBERDROLA

Technology Driving Sustainability – the role of E-mobility
Tuesday 15 May 2018 Brussels - Hosted by the EEF in cooperation with the EIF

Oil & Gas in Europe today... And tomorrow ?
Tuesday 29 May 2018, Strasbourg - Hosted by IOGP (International Association of Oil and Gas Producers)

The new Electricity Market Design - a smart regulation for a smart distribution networks ?
Tuesday 12 June 2018, Strasbourg - Hosted by E.DSO for Smart Grids

UN Sustainable Development Goal No. 7: Does coal have a role in providing affordable and clean energy?
Tuesday 9 July 2018, Brussels - Hosted by EURACOAL

Building regional cooperation through a Mediterranean Gas Hub
Tuesday 11 September 2018, Strasbourg - Hosted by Eni

Low-Emission Mobility: is a 100% electric future realistic? The view from the gas, oil and electricity sectors.
Tuesday 24 September 2018, Brussels - Hosted by E.on, ExxonMobil, GIE (Gas Infrastructure Europe)

Clean energy islands: paving the way to Europe’s decarbonisation
Monday 8 October 2018, Brussels - Hosted by EUGINE

Getting the European Energy Market ready for 2030: What role for network codes & guidelines?
Tuesday 23 October 2018, Strasbourg - Hosted by ENTSO-E

Financing the energy transition of coal-dependant regions
Tuesday 13 November 2018, Strasbourg - Hosted by PKEE

Nord Stream 2 or real diversification: challenges of the internal gas market
Tuesday 20 November 2018, Brussels – Hosted by PGNiG SA
Looking ahead to a new year in energy policy

Monday 22 January 2018, Brussels - Hosted by the EEF

The year started at a high-level, as the EEF had the honour of welcoming Dominique Ristori, Director General for Energy at the European Commission, to its new year reception. In his address to EEF Members, Mr Ristori took stock of the EU’s energy policy agenda for 2018.

EEF President Jerzy Buzek thanked Director General Ristori for his fruitful cooperation with the EEF through the active participation of DG Energy representatives to each of EEF dinner-debates. He also underlined the ever growing support from MEPs and industry to the Forum. Both Dominique Ristori and Jerzy Buzek agreed on the importance of discussion and exchange of views between the Parliament, the Commission and the industry as an added-value when developing policies.

2017 was the year of Energy Union implementation, one of Europe’s most intense years when it comes to energy policy. In 2018, EU policymakers will continue negotiations with trilogues touching 9 key energy dossiers.

Director-General Ristori informed on the EU Energy Poverty Observatory (launched on 29 January) to support decision-making and encourage public engagement, followed by the launch of a new Clean Energy Industrial Forum in February with the aim of helping the EU’s industry take advantage of the growth opportunities arising from the clean energy transition. He stressed the need to develop a new European industrial basis in support of energy. In 2018, Europe will also work to solve the challenge of storage.

Jerzy Buzek gave the floor to Associate Members of the EEF. The European Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSOG) and Electricity (ENTSO-E), took the opportunity to underline the growing cooperation between the gas and the electricity sectors, which was discussed in a dinner-debate co-hosted by both organisations in April 2017.

This first briefing on the 2018 programme on the EU’s energy agenda was a moment for an informal exchange of views with EU policymakers and other representatives of energy organisations. The agenda of the EEF was built up taking good account of the new key issues in the 2018 landscape.
The transport sector is responsible for 25% of polluting emissions, with the consequent reduction of air quality in many cities. To fight this, the Commission has been working on different measures, including improved fuels quality and new emission limits for fuel vehicles. The emissions scandal in diesel cars two years ago (dieselgate), has led to new proposals from the EU executive. The EEF dedicated a dinner-debate to look at the impact of these new measures.

Following the finding that diesel cars on the road today do not respect tested values under real driving conditions (RDC), EU’s executive body has proposed a Real Driving Emissions (RDE) test, among other initiatives, to reduce the impact of fuel cars on urban air quality. Mr John Cooper, Director of FuelsEurope, questioned certain aspects of the Commission’s approach using as reference two studies commissioned by the association of fuel producers. Taking the example of Paris, Mr Cooper explained that non-compliance with air quality standards comes mainly from measurements in road traffic junctions where there is heavy pollution, which drive the city to be non-compliant, but only 20% of the population lives in non-compliant areas. When analyzing car contribution to air quality up to 2025, he said, the impact of cars is practically the same with diesel or electric vehicles and none of these scenarios gets Paris to extended quality targets.

According to FuelsEurope, the measures to increase air quality should focus on older technology vehicles on the fleet and non-car transport sources, such as trucks, buses, heating or industrial pollution. The current application of the EURO 6d standard ensures car emissions control and the next stage of responsibility is, according to fuel producers, on vehicle users and Member States to make sure that the emission levels of the vehicles stays the same.

Mr Hans Van Steen, from DG Energy, pointed out that air quality issues need to be tackled taking into account all economic sectors, decision-making levels and policy areas involved. He explained that the figures presented by FuelsEurope rely on the removal of the old cars fleet, which may be slow. That’s the reason why the Commission wants to make sure that current regulation is fully complied with. The decarbonisation of transport is essential and there will be no one-fuel solution to achieve it, he said.
“It’s fantastic to be in a Forum that has been discussing about energy for more than 20 years”, said the Commissioner.

Innovation is essential to ensure progress in any sector. In the case of energy, innovation will be one of the key drivers of the transition towards a more sustainable and efficient sector. Commissioner Moedas highlighted three challenges for energy innovation and insisted on the importance of synchronising technology with politics.

The current new role of citizens has changed. In the digital world the citizen decides what he wants. He is at the center of the energy system, including for energy pricing, which is a big change for the sector, explained the Commissioner. As a result, the EU needs to focus on innovation to benefit to citizens. This innovation process has to be done bottom-up, taking into account the opinion, the ideas and the needs of energy consumers. Skills is the second challenge the energy sector is facing in terms of innovation.

According to Commissioner Moedas, the intersection between the physical and the digital dimension is key and more connection between these sectors is needed. A change in funding priorities and in teaching about existing new technologies is necessary to channel the right skills and to promote changes in the energy sector. Funding is also part of the key challenges. The EU needs to invest more money in innovation and to increase the budget for the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (PF9).

In the case of private investment, according to Commissioner Moedas attention should be paid to the problems faced by private investors to provide funding for innovative projects. Public funding is also essential to give direction to private investment. That’s the reason why the Commission encourages investments in renewables, storage, e-mobility and energy efficient buildings.

Numerous questions were asked by the audience and Commissioner Moedas took the time to answer each of them and engage in an in-depth exchange with EEF members.
The steel industry is responsible for 7% of global emissions and 30% of industrial emissions in the EU. European steelmakers have reduced energy consumption and CO2 emissions per tonne of steel by 50% since 1960 and are close to their limits to reduce much further. In that context, Axel Eggert, Director General at Eurofer, explained that “Europe has to find a way to decarbonise without losing profitability or market share compared to its competitors”. It’s important for the steel industry to keep the innovative edge to stay competitive. Eurofer is running about 12 different projects with the objective to make the sector carbon neutral by 2050. These projects have a cost of more than 1 billion euros to bring them up to industrial scale by 2030-2035 and start the roll-out afterwards if the projects prove successful.

The power sector plays a crucial role to lead the energy transition and decarbonise the economy. In order to make the EU steel industry carbon neutral, the steel industry will need according to Eurofer’s figures, an additional amount of 400 to 500 TWh of electricity, which is about the electricity consumption of Germany today. 

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The European Union has shown strong leadership in the fight against climate change, setting ambitious emissions reduction targets to reduce emissions progressively up to 2050, in line with the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. The Spanish company IBERDROLA proposed a discussion on the evolution of low-emission technologies’ costs, the role of electricity and the challenges in meeting climate goals for the energy sector.

IBERDROLA has carried out a study to see how the Spanish energy sector can reduce 80% of its emissions by 2050. According to Gonzalo Sáenz de Mieira, Director of Climate Change, actions will be needed in 2 fronts: increase of energy efficiency and replacement of fossil fuels with renewables. This means reducing energy consumption by 1.7% annually, phasing out oil and coal, maintaining gas as a transition energy when electrification is not viable and reaching high penetration of RES (66% in 2050) in the electricity sector.

The energy transition is not moving ahead fast enough. As Mr Sáenz de Mieira explained, "EU ETS emissions grew 1.5% last year, EU transport emissions have grown over 15% from 1990 to 2015, coal maintains its competitiveness against gas due to low ETS prices and investment in RES is falling short of what is required". Clear targets and policies are necessary.

Within those policies, IBERDROLA’s representative highlighted the ‘Environmental tax reform’ based on the polluter pays principle to eliminate distortions and send price signals to investors and consumers and get revenues to finance the energy transition. This principle, he said, is not always applied under the current tax system in Europe.

There is a great need for an update of our analysis in terms of what is possible today. Artur Runge-Metzger, Director at DG Climate Action, European Commission explained that EU’s executive body would provide it at the end of the year. There are different pathways possible and they have to be technologically and economically feasible. It will also be important to take into account consumer choices, he said. Depending on the national circumstances, different weight will be given to the different possible pathways.
Cars can be seen as batteries on wheels only if they are clever and connected to the grid. A smart infrastructure will make the habits of customer change, which represents an important cultural transformation. In order to get out of the chicken and egg debate, ENEL has planned to open the market and put in place proper infrastructure to ease the so-called “range anxiety”. Smart charging and platforms where cars will aggregate are necessary and already a reality to allow the e-mobility.

Mr. Laurin Sepoetro, EU public policy, presented Uber’s view of a more sustainable and low emission transport sector that will be shared, electric and automated. The aim is to move towards a system with fewer cars, fuller cars and then - this is where electricity comes in - more efficient cars. Being at an early stage of learning how e-mobility can be enabled by mobility platforms, the pilot projects carried out around the world offer good examples of what needs to be put in place to allow the uptake of EV in the private hire vehicle sector. In Uber’s view, a multimodal approach to sustainable and low emission mobility is required. E-mobility is one but clean airzones, multimodal travel as well reductions of own cars through ridesharing are all part of the equation to finance the energy transition.
Oil & Gas in Europe today... And tomorrow?

Tuesday 29 May 2018, Strasbourg - Hosted by IOGP (International Association of Oil and Gas Producers Association)

As the energy sector undergoes major transformation, questions arise about the role of oil and gas in a low-emission future, as well as on their place in the EU energy mix. The EEF invited IOGP, the association of oil and gas producers representing the upstream sector, to present its view and to have an exchange of opinions with the audience.

Mr François-Régis Mouton, Director of EU Affairs, IOGP, touched upon the importance of oil and gas. Oil is used as raw material for everyday products, whereas gas is key for heating, for back-up and to enable more renewables into the grid. According to him, they still have a future. Exploration in Europe is successful and projected for the next 20-25 years.

As for gas, it is currently 4 times cheaper per KWh than electricity, which can be an advantage for consumers. The role of oil and gas will evolve, biogas and hydrogen will come from natural gas and as the industry is committed to improve its own efficiency, methane emissions will be reduced further. Finally, Mr. Mouton explained that oil and gas, as well as their future use will also have an impact on government revenues.

Mr Robert James, from Oil Spill Response Limited complemented Mr. Mouton’s presentation, focussing on the way oil spills can best be dealt with. He presented the company that is owned by the oil industry and for the oil industry. OSRL provides resources for an efficient response on global basis in case of unwanted happening with rapid deployment worldwide if required.

Mr Rémi Mayet, Security of Supply unit at DG Energy, presented the European Commission viewpoint. Security of supply is a priority for the EU, since it will still rely on oil and gas for the next decades. In order to succeed in the Energy Transition, an effective governance and a long-term strategy are also required. Among other things, Mr. Mayet underlined the need to adapt the regulatory framework so as to make it able to spur investments and innovation.

François-Régis Mouton · Director of EU Affairs, IOGP
Rémi Mayet · Security of Supply unit in DG Energy, European Commission
Robert James · from Oil Spill Response Limited
«The EU can be the leader in smart grids»
Christian Buchel
Chairman of EDSO for Smart Grids
Mr Christian Buchel, Chairman of E.DSO for Smart Grids & Member of the Board, Director for Customers, Markets, Territories and Europe of Enedis, underlined the importance of the data that will allow the market design to be “smart”. He insisted that the EU can be the leader in smart grids and that investments need to focus on digitalization. The world of energy is changing, being more and more decentralised and connected to the low voltage grids and influenced by the digital revolution.

In his in depth review of the electricity Regulation and Directive, he touched upon the DSO entity, the role of DSOs - including as a concern - the possibility of DSO to use flexibility options, the DSO/TSO responsibility on network codes and data management and the network tariffs.

The presentation from Ms Anna Colucci, DG Energy Head of Unit "Retail markets, coal & oil", complemented perfectly the introduction as she reacted on all the points presented by Mr Buchel. She highlighted the necessity to include the consumer in the project, making him understand the profit he can do by collecting, storing, and selling his own energy. The European Union needs to create a common platform for distributors, supervised by new polices while preserving the innovation. She insisted on the interoperability of data and on the need for DSOs to be neutral market facilitators.

An in depth debate followed this presentation on this very topical issue.

The new Electricity Market Design - a smart regulation for a smart distribution networks?

Tuesday 12 June 2018, Strasbourg - Hosted by E.DSO for Smart Grids

This event was chaired by Dr Paul Rübig, MEP, Austria, Vice President of the EEF. He emphasized the importance of R&D and the policies related to the innovation field. Mr Rübig also thanked the speakers for their work and presented them as providing one of the greatest wealth of Europe: knowledge.

Christian Buchel - Chairman of E.DSO for Smart Grids & Member of the Board
Director for Customers Markets, Territories and Europe of Enedis

Anna Colucci - DG Energy, Head of Unit "Retail markets, coal & oil", European Commission
UN Sustainable Development Goal No. 7: Does coal have a role in providing affordable and clean energy?

Tuesday 9 July 2018, Brussels - Hosted by EURACOAL

Before the summer break, the event held in early July gave us an opportunity to discuss with Mr Michal Drabik, UNECE representative for the UN Sustainable Development.

Mr Tomasz Rogala, President of EURACOAL and Chairman of the Polish Mining Group, stressed the need to continue working on clean coal technologies. Coal will still be needed in the EU energy mix for some decades. More time is needed for the transition period and it would be better to avoid having to close indigenous coal industry and losing jobs when at the same time having to import coal.

Our special guest that evening was Mr Drabik, from the UNECE. The work of this institution on sustainable energy is designed to improve access to affordable and clean energy while helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint. It promotes international policy dialogue and cooperation among governments, energy industries and other stakeholders. Mr Drabik took an open approach on the role of fossil fuels in the energy mix, based on facts and leaving emotions aside. He insisted on the equal importance of all 17 SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) adding that we have no luxury to leave some options or solutions out. Low emissions are not better than no emissions, but indeed better than high emissions.

When presenting several UNICE projects, Mr Drabik invited participants to be part of the work in those fields.

Mr Haitze Siemers, DG Energy, insisted that the EU needs to stay on top of innovation in energy technologies, citing the continuous drive towards innovation throughout the world. Combining the many innovative solutions is key. He also touched upon coal regions in transition, Horizon 2020, regional funds and circular economy. An additional intervention from Mr Hervé Martin, responsible for Research Fund for coal and Steel in DG Research and Innovation complemented the presentations, mentioning the strategic research agenda for clean coal technologies and the EC’s Coal Regions in Transition platform, among others.

Haitze Siemers - Head of unit New energy technologies, innovation & clean coal, DG Energy, European Commission
Michal Drabik - UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)
Tomasz Rogala - President of EURACOAL and Chairman of the Polish Mining Group
Building regional cooperation through a Mediterranean Gas Hub

Over the last 8 years, 4,000 bcm of gas were discovered in the East Mediterranean basin, making it a gas province with a great potential to help the countries in the region both to meet their domestic energy demand and to foster political and economic cooperation.

Mr. Lapo Pistelli, EVP International Affairs Department - Eni and Mr. Marc-Antoine Eyl-Mazegga, Director Centre for Energy - IFRI put a special focus on Egypt, where the 850 bcm Zohr gas field was discovered by Eni in 2015. Mr. Pistelli emphasised the country’s ability to develop mature infrastructures for actual gas delivery extremely rapidly compared to other countries, while Mr. Eyl-Mazegga underlined the relevant role Zohr could play in helping Egypt face an always increasing domestic energy demand, the economic challenges coming from the reduction of oil and gas production as well as the resulting need to diversify the energy mix.

Mr. Pistelli further outlined the potential opportunities for integrated development in the whole region, which concretely stem from the possibility to make the gas province a true gas hub. However, in order for this to become reality, concrete infrastructures are needed. It is this very need that should encourage the European Union to take on an active role. Indeed, not only would a gas hub enhance European energy security by enabling it to face the current sharp decline in indigenous energy production, but it would also and foremost secure energy supply to Mid-East countries, which are politically divided but all in need for energy. As the history of European integration teaches and as Mr. Pistelli himself stressed “energy, like coal and iron in the 50s, can be a factor for conflicts but can also become a factor for integration. And if you share the benefits of energy, you can also overcome a lot of political troubles and help the region boost economy”.

Mr Leonidas Kioussis, International Relations senior expert - DG Energy, European Commission, said the European Commission has been following the developments in the region since the beginning. It recognises both the role such a gas hub could play in achieving energy diversification in Europe and its potential in terms of political cooperation. The European Union is thus ready to provide political, financial and diplomatic assistance to these countries, as the recently-signed Memorandum of Understanding with Egypt demonstrates.
Low-Emission Mobility: is a 100% electric future realistic?  
The view from the gas, oil and electricity sectors.

Tuesday 24 September 2018, Brussels - Hosted by E.on, ExxonMobil, Gas Infrastructure Europe

The EEF held a special dinner-debate, the first event to be hosted by three Associate Members, respectively from the gas, electric and oil industry sectors, who were able to express their points of view on low-emission mobility.

Mr Jean-Marc Leroy, President of Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE), was our first speaker and touched upon gas issues. He said already existing gas infrastructures could play a key role in achieving decarbonization of the transport sector and air quality improvement: natural gas vehicles can provide significant benefits in terms of both CO2 and NOx reduction, while emitting almost no particulate matter. From a legislative perspective, GIE sustains there is no need for further regulation to efficiently develop LNG in shipping and road transport. A proper implementation of the Directive on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure (DAFI) together with the introduction of a full life-cycle assessment (LCA) methodology to guarantee consistency between EU energy and mobility legislation would be sufficient. As for the latter, GIE is well aware of the long time this will take, and thus proposes a CO2 correction factor as a pragmatic solution in the short term.

Dr Andreas Pfeiffer, Global Head of E-Mobility, E.ON reported that thanks to its development of e-mobility, E.ON has been able to save 4t of CO2 only between November 2017 and April 2018 and this could just be the beginning. He referred to already existing infrastructure and to EU-wide fast charging network, adding that the car industry will also have to adapt. The company thus asks the European Union for further legal and financial support, to manage to enable everyone to have an electric car or use electric mobility as a way of transport.

Although recognising the key role electrification would play in achieving decarbonization, Mr Khurram Gaba, Policy Planning Executive, ExxonMobil stressed that certain modes of transport, as heavy-duty vehicles, aviation and marine will continue to rely on liquid fuels for a long time to come. It is thus necessary to investigate how their carbon intensity can be reduced. This is what ExxonMobil is already doing, for instance by focusing its research on the possibility to use both cellulosic biofuels from non-edible biomass such as agricultural waste and algae for liquid fuels production.

Finally, according to Mr Ivo Schmidt, Cabinet of Vice President Šefčovič, a 100% clean transportation is today technically feasible and all the technologies previously presented are part of the solution. Yet questions still remain on how much it will cost and how fast we will get there. From its part, the European Commission has already done much work to change the transportation sector, because it is convinced of the importance to set a signal for European home market. Mr Shmidt reminds that “the single energy market is not an end in itself, it’s merely a means to achieve the goals we have set: security of supply, environmental and climate goals”.

Jean-Marc Leroy - President of Gas Infrastructure Europe  
Dr Andreas Pfeiffer - Global Head of E-Mobility, E.ON  
Khurram Gaba - Policy Planning Executive, ExxonMobil  
Ivo Schmidt - Cabinet of Vice President Šefčovič, European Commission
The dinner-debate was chaired by MEP Inese Vaidere, Director of the EEF. During the event, our guests were able to intensely debate and discuss how to help the decarbonisation of EU most remote territories, referred to as EU islands.

Mr Hermann Kröger, Vice-President of EUGINE and Senior Vice-President of MAN Energy Solutions, presented the huge challenge those islands are facing: due to their geographical position, they need decentralized energy solutions to reduce their dependency on expensive fossil fuel imports. According to him, such solutions must be based on renewables, but also have to ensure reliable power. This is the lesson learnt from what happened in Pellworm and El Hierro, where it was shown that by basing only on variable renewable energy solutions (vRES) and storage a 100% availability and 100% security of supply cannot be guaranteed.

EUGINE proposes to use flexible engine power plants as enabler for more photovoltaic and wind: A hybrid power system combining variable renewables, storage, flexible generation and microgrids would provide EU islands with reliable power, and reductions of CO2 emissions.

He added that co or trigeneration plants provide high efficiency and that gas-powered engines also operate with synthetic fuels or biogas.

Mr Eero Ailio, Adviser on Energy Transition and Local Governance in DG Energy, presented the European Commission’s point of view and commitment on the matter. He said “one of the main political ideas driving the Clean Energy for All European Package is the word «all»: the EU does not want to leave anyone behind”. It recognises the pivotal role of consumers and acts to strengthen their rights and those of local communities such as islands. Financing the decarbonisation of almost 3000 islands is not possible. Initiatives have started on islands. The EU will use the already existing financing instruments in the smartest way possible and will try to understand how to boost investments also from the private sector.
Network codes and guidelines are the technical implementation of a political idea: the decision to create a full integrated and efficient internal EU energy market.

Mrs Bente Hagem, Chair of the Board of ENTSO-E, Mr Christophe Gence-Creux, ACER and Mr Oliver Koch, DG Energy all agree on this and said network codes are one of the main achievements in the last 10 years of EU energy law developments: they are crucial for maintaining security of energy supply, increasing competitiveness, as well as ensuring that all consumers can purchase energy at affordable prices.

Although it could still be improved, the network codes implementation process is delivering, as shown by market coupling. These codes represent an opportunity to address the issues that still obstruct the further integration of the internal energy market (IEM), as an example the lack of cross-border capacity to be made available to the market.

In this framework, our three speakers gave clear messages on the very political aspect of the topic. Two legislative acts were touched upon: the proposals for an Electricity Regulation and that for the ACER Regulation, both in the version proposed by the Council.

As for the first, articles 13 and 14 address capacity calculation, imposing an ill-defined cross-border capacity threshold, and member states’ possibility to “opt-out” from the network codes implementation process. As it stands right now, the latter could mean the end of this process altogether, a matter of deep concern for the speakers.

The difference between implementing and delegated acts was also discussed and clearly explained, along with the impact the different proposals would have on ACER.

As the discussions in the interinstitutional negotiations were in their final stage, the three speakers stressed the importance for negotiators to take informed decisions.
Financing the energy transition of coal-dependant regions

Tuesday 13 November 2018, Strasbourg - Hosted by PKEE

Energy and climate issues are central for the ongoing discussions on the future EU Budget. Within this framework, the EEF dedicated a dinner-debate to an exchange of views on how to finance the energy transition of coal-dependant regions. The event was hosted by the Polish Electricity Association (PKEE).

Mr Filip Grzegorczyk, CEO of Tauron Polska Energia, said the EU and its Member States should “find a just solution to secure a just energy transition”. According to him, a forced decarbonisation would risk jeopardising security of supply as well as being economically and socially harmful, especially for coal-dependent regions likely to lose business competitiveness and to suffer from high rates of job loss and subsequent unemployment. This does not make PKEE an enemy of decarbonisation: PKEE supports the EU ambitious climate and energy targets but claims everyone should be able to choose its own accomplishment path, so as for Europe to be united in diversity. PKEE believes that the European Parliament proposal to establish a Just Energy Transition Fund (JETF) represents a good starting point, just as the other EU financing instruments already in place – the Cohesion Fund, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), and the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). Nevertheless, they would not suffice to complete a just transition and should thus be increased.

The future of coal regions matters to the European Commission, as underlined by Ms Anna Colucci, DG Energy Head of Unit «Retail markets, coal & oil». Aware of the challenging character of the energy transition, the EC underlines the need to ensure every region can benefit from the programmes already in place through the adoption of a holistic approach. To facilitate this, the Coal Regions in Transition Platform was launched in December 2017, while a Secretariat for it will soon be established.

By providing all different actors involved in the transition with the chance to share knowledge and best practices, this initiative helps coal-dependent regions set out and implement concrete strategies. As stated by Ms Colucci, such strategies are fundamental because "without thinking where you want to go it’s then very difficult to see what projects are needed". As for financing, the EC welcomes the JETF creation put forward by the EP and has proposed an increase from 20% to 25% in climate spending within the new MFF 2021-2027. However, it also stresses the importance to work with the already-existing tools, which are already delivering tangible results the EC is proud of.
Mr Piotr Woźniak, CEO of PGNiG SA, Polish Oil and Gas Company, expressed some concerns on the potential negative impacts of the project Nord Stream 2 (NS2) now under construction, touching upon issues related to the environment, the security of supply and the need to ensure real diversification within the EU. He insisted on a concrete application of the Third Energy Package to ensure NS2 project meets all the required standards. Strategies to achieve real diversification should also be focused on and implemented, so as to avoid any pressure on supply routes. These should be based on two pillars: the production and transportation of gas from Norway to Poland through the construction of the Baltic Pipe and a major role for LNG.

Mr Stefan Moser, Security of Supply Head of Unit in DG Energy, European Commission, said building a well-functioning, competitive and diversified internal energy market is a priority for the European Commission. Thus, the main principles of the EU energy union (third-party access, non-discrimination and unbundling) must be applied to and respected by all existing or projected gas infrastructures, so as to ensure their equal treatment. To this end, the amendment of the Internal Gas Market Directive is key, as it would make the existing energy law enforceable to every onshore and offshore gas interconnector with third countries, including NS2 but not limited to it. As for the security of gas supply, Mr. Moser stressed the importance for Member States to work together to optimize the different tools at their disposal. The relevant 2017 Regulation has put in place a framework suitable to ensure they cooperate more closely to address the risks associated with supply sources. Reverse flows and LNGs also have an important role to play in this regard. All this considered, the European Commission is confident Europe energy vulnerability is progressively coming to an end.
EEF VISIBILITY
#THANK YOU

This year, the EEF Community has been tweeting. We thank you all and we hope to hear from you soon again, with always more thoughtful tweets.

As you know, our debates are held under the **Chatham House rule**. It does not mean that you are not allowed to tweet or post online: this rule indicates that participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed. So feel free to post online pictures, informations or your opinions, as long as it respects this precious rule.
2018 was a year of changes... Those were not only about energy policies. Indeed, the EEF decided to give a fresh start to its communication. As you all noticed, the first step of this evolution appeared through our communication support with a new way of showing the information, with new colors and layout, and more visibility for our events in the European Parliament through the display of posters.

An evolving visual identity also seemed to be a natural step to prepare for the election coming soon. The quality remains the same, if not better, and the content provides always more information to keep you updated. The monthly newsletter aims to convey an informative description of what goes on during its events, in the EU Energy dimension in general as well as on EEF Members’ side. We hope you are satisfied with this clearer vision on the information we provide.

If you want to tweet, keep in mind our new hashtag that will allow you to connect with the EEF Community! #EEFDebates
#KEEP IN TOUCH

The European Energy Forum Bulletin gives a voice to the Members to share their updates and current events.

This monthly newsletter is made to keep you updated about the dinner-debates agenda, Members and internal news or updates.

• You are one of our member and you wish to share an important news in our next Bulletin ?
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