The EEF Active Members met for the General Assembly during the Strasbourg plenary to take care of statutory and legal requirements of the association and to discuss the programme of events for the coming months. This meeting was also an opportunity to appoint 5 new Directors on the EEF Board, thus reflecting a variety of parties and countries in our membership:

- Barbara Kappel - ENF, Austria,
- Jaromir Kohlicek - GUE/NGL, Czech Republic
- Peter Kouroumasheva - S&D, Bulgaria
- Davor Skrlec - Greens/EFA, Croatia
- Evzen Tosenovsky - ECR, Czech Republic

The EEF congratulates the new Directors.

12 June 2018

DINNER DEBATE IN STRASBOURG

The new Electricity Market Design – a smart regulation for smart distribution networks?
Host: EDSO for smart grids
It was a pleasure for the European Energy Forum to organize its lunch debate in Brussels with the cooperation of the European Internet Forum. As formulated once again during our ITAC internal meeting in April, the digital world matters to our EEF members. We approached the question of E-mobility with a broader angle, focusing on the energy efficiency with ENEL and adding this time a digital dimension with Uber as co-speaker.

The debate was chaired by Adina-Ioana Vălean Chair of the Environment Committee, who introduced the event saying how digitalisation has a clear role to play in a move towards a more efficient and sustainable transport. She insisted that EU funding is available to support this shift.

Megan Richards, Director at DG Energy, congratulated on the appropriate combination of the two fora as the Digital Single Market and the Energy Union have many areas of common interest. She gave an outline of the legislative acts in these domains and mentioned the priorities of digitalisation, decarbonisation and decentralisation that will have an impact on e-mobility.

Alberto Piglia, Head of e-mobility at ENEL explained how the world of energy is undergoing a deep transformation. Decarbonisation, electrification, digitalisation and evolution of consumer needs have all an impact on e-mobility. 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 and 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.

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 for the uptake of EV in the private hire vehicle sector. In Uber’s view, there needs to be a multimodal approach to sustainable and low emission mobility. E-mobility is one but clean airzones, multimodal travel as well reductions of own cars through ridesharing are all part of the equation.
As the energy sector undergoes major transformation, questions arise around the role of oil and gas in a low-emission future and their place in the EU energy mix. The EEF invite IOGP, the association of oil and gas producers representing the upstream sector to presented its view and exchange views with the audience.

François-Régis Mouton, Director EU Affairs, IOGP explained how oil and gas, in his association’s view, still have a future. Exploration in Europe is successful and projected for the next 20-25 years. Oil is used as raw material for everyday products whereas the role of gas is sometimes less known. In addition to heating, gas serves as back up thus enabling more renewables into the grid. An advantage to consumer, gas is 4 times cheaper per KWh than electricity. The role of oil and gas will evolve, biogas and hydrogen will come from natural gas, methane emissions will be reduced further as the industry is committed to improving its own efficiency. On the financial side, the future of oil and gas will impact government revenues.

The presentation was complemented by the intervention of Robert James, from Oil Spill Response Limited who presented the company that is owned by the oil industry and for the oil industry. OSRL provides resources for an efficient response on a global basis in case of unwanted happening with rapid deployment worldwide if required.

As always, the speeches were complemented by the European Commission, with an intervention from Rémi Mayet, Security of Supply unit in EG Energy. Security of supply is a priority as EU will rely on oil and gas for the next decades. To succeed in the Energy Transition, EU needs to put in place the right governance and long term strategy. The regulatory framework needs to be adapted in order to spur investments and innovation.
In May, Statoil changed its name to Equinor. Equinor is developing oil, gas, wind and solar energy in more than 30 countries worldwide. It is the largest operator in Norway, among the world’s largest offshore operators, and a growing force in renewables.

Equinor keeps a liaison office in Brussels in order to represent the company’s interests vis-à-vis the institutions of the European Union, engage the head office on identifying Europe-wide business issues, keep the company informed and up to date with regard to EU policy initiatives.

PPC Group is the leading Greek electric utility, with activities ranging across mining, electricity generation, distribution network operation and supply of electricity to end consumers.

Konstantinos Chronis is the main representative of the company at the EEF. He has been with PPC since September 1987, having served in a variety of positions and tasks, including research on energy generation technologies, environmental studies, systems design and engineering, power plants’ chemistry and operation issues, fuel and natural gas supply and technical issues, energy market. Since January 2017 he has undertaken the task to establish and lead the company’s Representation Office in Brussels.

Gabrielle will be your new contact for EEF events and for communications. For 2 years, she held the position of Graphist & Event officer in the Motorsports Industry and she will help EEF to develop the communication strategy, focusing on the digital, the visual identity and the team spirit.

gabrielle.lelievre@europeanenergyforum.eu
+32 2 227 04 63