Editorial

Summer has just started but the programme of events for the Autumn is already in place.

The end of 2013 and the beginning of 2014 will give the EEF members the possibility to discuss diverse issues before the EP prepares for the European elections in May 2014.

In September, the EEF is pleased to offer its members the opportunity to visit the smart grid installations in the impressive and modern city of Barcelona. This visit will cover a broad range of energy issues such as smart meters, wind energy, photovoltaic and solar thermal installations, energy infrastructure, network management, heating and cooling systems, waste management issues and electric vehicle infrastructures among others. All this in one single visit!

At the request of EEF Active Members, a visit to the US will be organised in October and will cover the highly debated topics of shale gas and nuclear energy. Participants will be able to ask their questions about shale gas extraction and discuss nuclear energy as part of the US fuel mix. More details will be available soon.

The EEF looks forward to welcoming its members to a series of dinner-debates dedicated to consumer issues in early September. Consumer is more than ever an important topic, especially after the appointment of the new Commissioner for consumer policy, Neven Mimica.

We wish our readers an nice summer break.

Pascale Verheust
Director General

Upcoming events

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We wish you a sunny summer break!
EEF events

Smart Meters and Consumer: what happens to my data?
18/06/2013: Dinner-debate in Brussels
At the invitation of ESMIG

Data protection and smart meters were on the spotlight of our last dinner-debate prior to the summer recess.

The European Commission is paving the way for the roll-out of smart metering systems. Smart grids will enable consumers to follow their electricity consumption in real time, saving energy and money. They should also help ensure the secure functioning of the electricity system and enable the integration of renewables. This would also allow grid operators to be able to manage the network more efficiently through the analysis of the information these provide.

Fostering the implementation of smart grids implies developing common EU-level technical standards, ensuring the highest level of data protection, adjusting the existing EU legislative framework, guaranteeing transparency and competitiveness of the retail market and finally, promoting technological innovation.

While a legal framework for the roll-out of the smart metering project has been settled in most EU countries, the debate on issues such as privacy and security is still hot.

In this regard, Frank Hyldmar, President of the European Smart Metering Industry Group commented: “At the mid-point of 2013, many countries have implemented or are ready to implement a legal framework for the roll-out. At the same time, the security and privacy topic continues to generate public interest with different dynamics emerging in individual EU member states. ESMIG understands that public acceptance is crucial to any successful Smart Meter roll-out, and thus takes the issue of security and privacy very seriously.”

After the speech of Mr Hyldmar participants expressed diverse points of views that gave rise to a lively debate.

EEF news

Tweets announcing our events

The EEF is now on Twitter. The use of this and other social networks is now largely extended in the professional sphere. This account will be used to enhance the communication about EEF events. EEF tweets will not contain any specific views or positions of the EEF since the EEF is neutral by statute. Also, the Chatham House rules in place during our events will be respected in our tweets. We invite you to follow us: @EEF_EnergyForum