Editorial

Thank you Giles

May is a special month this year as it sees the election of a new European Parliament.

This period is even more special to the European Energy Forum since we are saying farewell to our President Giles Chichester. On 1st of July 2014, the EEF Active Members will elect a new EEF President.

We have thus asked our Associate Members to contribute to the edition of the May bulletin by sending us quotes or comments about Giles. We have also written a short summary of his 10 years as President and illustrated it with pictures, as we know he appreciates that.

This issue of the newsletter is an exceptional one dedicated to Giles. We hope that he enjoys his reading and that you do too!

Pascale Verheust
Director General

Upcoming events

22-25/05/2014 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

24/06/2014 Workshop for new MEPs : EEF Presentation
(MEPs attend) (lunch—more info will follow)
At the invitation of EEF

01/07/2014 General Assembly & Welcome reception
At the invitation of EEF (Active Members, Associate Members and newly elected MEPs attend)
17.30 to 20.00

02/09/2014 Dinner-debate in Brussels Renewables and gas – the perfect partners in heating
At the invitation of Eurogas
Giles Chichester has been the President of the EEF during the last 10 years. A new President will be elected after the European elections, but before this happens, we invite you to look back on the last terms in which Giles has commanded EEF’s boat and contributed to energy debates.

Giles was elected member of the European Parliament for South West England and Gibraltar as part of the British conservative group in 1995, when the European Commission published the Green Paper For a European Union Energy Policy. He became active member of the EEF at that time, recognising the importance of a Forum informing on energy issues where MEPs could express their views and exchange ideas with other actors of the energy sector.

He took over the Presidency of the EEF and succeeded Rolf Linkohr, an MEP from the socialist group, in 2004. The same year, he became Chairman of the ITRE Committee of the European Parliament. During this first mandate, the European Parliament worked on the enforcement of the Kyoto Protocol and the start of the EU emissions trading scheme (2005), the commitment to 20-20-20 targets (2007), the adoption of the EU 2020 Climate and Energy Legislative Package and the 3rd Internal Energy Market Package (2009) as well as the enforcement of the Lisbon Treaty with a dedicated chapter on energy (2009).

In 2011, he was also elected as a temporary Vice-President of the European Parliament to replace an outgoing MEP. The energy background in this term was characterized by the publication of the Climate and Energy 2050 Roadmaps (2011) and the extension of the Kyoto protocol (2011), as well as the agreement of the Energy Efficiency Directive (2012), the finalisation of the EU Energy Infrastructure Package (2013) and the consultation on the 2030 Climate and Energy framework (2013).

During his 10 years as President of the EEF, Giles has chaired over 130 debates and lead 17 delegation visits and parliamentary conferences, all on diverse topics and in different territories from Europe and abroad.

Aware of the importance of a balanced discussion, he ensured the neutrality of the EEF by encouraging all participants to express their opinion during the debates. An active and stimulating discussion was guaranteed by his deep knowledge on energy topics and his unforgettable sense of humour, the spark stimulating the debate.

He will now leave the EEF boat to sail through different seas. We wish him the best in the endeavours he will undertake.
EEF Information Bulletin

Associate Members

We have greatly appreciated and enjoyed Giles’ Presidency of the European Energy Forum. The quality of his insights on energy policy and technologies, and the elegant and witty way in which he hosted its events and introduced the speakers, have been a major factor in establishing the EEF as a valued and trusted forum for debate.”

Taking a broad and open-minded view of EU energy challenges is vital. Giles chaired the EEF debates in a constructive and inclusive manner-with a touch of humor to make participants feel at ease.”

“I have been working with Giles since he arrived in the EP 20 years ago. The numerous discussions, notably in the EEF, were characterized by a critical but constructive pro-European stance and a tremendous sense of humor. The combination of both elements guaranteed that there never was such a thing as a boring discussion. Thank you for that, Giles.”

“Giles, you have managed to run and chair the EEF all these years with humour, irony and knowledge. We all envy you for this and for this you will be so much missed.”

“I would definitely keep in mind the usual sentences he tells us at the end of each EEF dinner/lunch debate: I thank the people who have hosted tonight; I thank all the people who have taken part in the debates; and I thank also all the people who have not participated, but have listened. If they would not have attended, we could not have had the opportunity to debate!”
“Giles Chichester is certainly one among the few people who impress me the most. He has a unique capacity to facilitate and moderate a debate, knowing how to make bouncing discussion, showing its skills of synthesis on various issues related with energy. He has a kind of natural authority enabling him to mix humor and serious discussions. I really appreciated him and our EEF dinner-debates, whatever the qualities of the future President, may appear quite different after he retires.”

“Giles, you stand for ability, authority, sound advice and a fine sense of humour. I shall miss you, but, more importantly, I wish you well.”

“We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to Giles Chichester, who has been an outstanding President of the EEF. Knowledgeable about all aspects of European energy policy and interested in the newest ideas. Giles has shared his unrivalled knowledge with the Forum over many years. Ever stimulating in debate and generous in his time and commitment. We wish him well for the future and hope he will continue his stimulating and always valuable interventions in this debate.”

“We would like to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude for his work as the President of European Energy Forum. All experts of NJSC “Naftogaz of Ukraine” who participated in the EEF meetings very much appreciated the professional level of the events. Also they are very grateful for the warm hospitality, fruitful and useful work with the European Energy Forum.”

“EEF President Chichester has always impressed us with his understanding of energy issues, his leadership of the Forum and his consistently fine humor during his long tenure. The Westinghouse team wishes him well in his future endeavors.”
“Giles is the ultimate oxymoron. He is an open-minded politician, a European Brit, a modest President, a living legend and most of all: seriously funny! We will miss him!”

Giles Chichester has always been active in raising awareness on the importance of energy to our living standards and on the importance of ensuring that we don’t threaten the living standards of future generations.”

AREVA acknowledges Giles Chichester’s "energetic" chairmanship of the EEF over the last years. Giles strongly contributed to placing the Forum at the heart of the work of the European Parliament on energy policy issues. He played an outstanding role in fostering among stakeholders a much needed debate without taboo on various policy options, allowing all technologies including nuclear and renewables to demonstrate their merits.

“Giles, you have been a very impartial, knowledgeable and efficient Chairman and this has further demonstrated that the EEF is not a lobbying group but a "sui generis" body were participants can learn from each other’s. We will miss you and your “catch my eyes” but you will navigate towards other success”

Associate Members

Jon Coniam
Enercon

Patrick Clerens
EPPSA

Baptiste Buet
AREVA

Samuele Furfari
DG Energy (EC)