Editorial

Let’s talk about costs

17 years ago, a reduction in the cost of electricity was promised thanks to the creation of the internal market. We nevertheless see the contrary happening now. Should we blame the internal market or the 2020 targets?

This increase was to be expected since the directives on 2020 were adopted to go against market forces. Domestic consumers are now directly concerned and industries wonder what pace needs to be kept.

The report on energy prices being drafted by the European Commission is expected with great interest. Let’s hope that all questions will be tackled, including the sensitive ones. It is urgent to examine the issue of price from all perspectives. As the EEF visit to the US at the end of October showed, the United States strive to reduce the cost of electricity in order to guarantee growth and exports.

The Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC is clearly less alarming than the previous ones and many question the results of the models. It seems that now is the right time to speak about the cost of our policies not on the basis of other models but taking into account our energy bills.

Jean-Claude Charrault
Special Adviser

Upcoming events

13/11/2013 Dinner-debate in Brussels
Coal, Poland and COP19
At the invitation of Euracoal

19/11/2013 Dinner-debate in Strasbourg
Capacity mechanisms as a structural component of electricity markets
At the invitation of Enel

26/11/2013 Dinner-debate in Brussels
Shale gas: opportunity for the competitiveness of the European industry; What is needed for the European shale gas strategy?
At the invitation of PGNIG

10/12/2013 Dinner-debate in Strasbourg
The state of the refining sector in competing markets
At the invitation of LUKOIL

14/01/2014 Dinner-debate in Strasbourg
Completing the single EU gas market
At the invitation of Fertilizers Europe
EEF events

A competitive and sustainable business model for 2030 and beyond
08/10/2013: Dinner-debate in Strasbourg

This debate was an occasion to discuss about the current situation of energy companies in Europe and how they are addressing economic challenges in the sector while coping with EU energy policies and environmental concerns.

During her speech, Ms. Hege Marie Norheim, Senior Vice President and Head of Statoil’s Corporate Sustainability Unit, shared some analytical insights on the role of oil and gas in the long-term sustainable energy future. She also explained how Statoil aims to maintain and develop a competitive and resilient portfolio towards and beyond 2030 by focusing on technology development, carbon-efficient operations, and by continuing to be among the world’s leading suppliers of natural gas.

As Ms Hege Marie Norheim said, Statoils’ response to the uncertain situation of today is “to work on our own emissions, to believe that gas has a very important contribution to make (...) and to invest in new technologies including CCS.”

Reception for Active Members
15/10/2013

The European Energy Forum organized a reception for its Active Members in the European Parliament. The elections of May 2014 are getting closer and the electoral results will change the composition of the European Parliament. This will also bring changes to the EEF, since our Board is composed of MEPs. EEF President Giles Chichester made official his decision not to run for next year elections and therefore opened the possibility for other MEPs to express their interest in being the next EEF.

Delegation visit to the US: Shale Gas and Nuclear Energy
27-31/10/2013

The third EEF delegation visit this year took place in the United States. The programme was intense and included a visit of a shale gas site in Pennsylvania and of the construction site of a nuclear power plant in South Carolina, as well as meetings in Washington with EU representations, White House staff and nuclear and shale gas organisations.

MEPs Edit Herczog, Robert Goebbels, Vladimir Urvatchev and Roger Helmer, were part of the delegation, as well as several MEPs assistants from different political parties. The visit was hosted by EEF members Shell and Westinghouse.
News from EU institutions

The European Commission announces the appointment of Dominique Ristori as Director-General for Energy

The European Commission has confirmed on 6 November the appointment of Dominique Ristori as Director-General for Energy. He will take over in January 2014 from Philip Lowe, who will retire at the end of this year.

Mr. Ristori has been a long time supporter of our forum, showing always strong interest for a transparent dialogue between the MEPs, the Commission and the Industry. The European Energy Forum congratulates Mr. Ristori on his appointment and looks forward to a continued cooperation with him in his new duties.

Since December 2010, Mr Ristori has been Director-General of the European Union’s Joint Research Centre, the Commission’s in-house scientific advisory service. The EEF had the opportunity to visit the Joint Research Center facilities in Karlsruhe in October last year during one of the Parliamentary sessions in Strasbourg.

Prior to this, Mr Ristori held three senior posts in the Commission’s Energy Directorate-General: Deputy Director-General (2006-10), Director in charge of general affairs and resources (2000-06), and Director in charge of European energy policy (1996-99).

Mr Ristori was born in France and he is a graduated from the Institute of Political Studies of Paris (1975).

Members news

GIE appoints new Executive Secretary

Since 1 October 2013, Thierry Deschuyteneer is Executive Secretary of Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE), the European association of gas transmission, gas storage and LNG regasification terminal operators.

He was previously Public Affairs Manager at Fluxys, the Belgian gas infrastructure operator, handling European energy policy and regulatory developments. Before that, he was Regulatory Manager at Fluxys, where he contributed to the design of access conditions to the gas transmission and storage systems and managed tariff issues with the national regulator.

Thierry Deschuyteneer studied engineering and began his career in the ICT industry before joining the gas sector 17 years ago.
Members energy events

European Energy Policy 2014: State Aid, Guidance and what to expect in 2014
02/12/2013: Eurelectric Conference

EURELECTRIC Annual Energy Policy Conference, with the confirmed participation of Joaquín Almunia (European Commissioner, DG COMP) and Johannes Teyssen (CEO of E.ON and President of EURELECTRIC) will take place on 2 December at Renaissance Hotel in Brussels.

GEODE Autumn Seminar 2013: “Bringing Intelligence to the Grid: DSOs practical experiences”
12/11/2013: Geode Seminar

This year GEODE Autumn Seminar in Brighton aims to discuss experiences from different European countries on how intelligence has been brought to the grid, the benefits for customers, the smart regulation and the need for rethinking tariffs structure.