Editorial

The right to be informed

Information is a right and a must for anyone involved in such a fundamental sector as energy.

The best way to learn is by meeting and discussing with knowledgeable persons in the sector, learning from them, discussing with them and confronting points of views and ideas.

The more points of views one is confronted with, the better one is prepared to work on a complex topic such as energy.

Listening to and understanding others in a transparent way even when not agreeing with them can only help building the policies the EU needs.

This has always been and will continue to be the vision of the European Energy Forum.

The open and transparent discussions proposed by the EEF throughout the Autumn, all on different aspects of energy policy, aim precisely at exchanging expertise and views in order to build the needed strong European energy policy.

Pascale Verheust
Director General

Upcoming events

16/09/2014  Dinner-debate in Strasbourg
Energy perspectives - the outlook for global macroeconomics and energy markets towards 2040
At the invitation of Statoil

23/09/2014  Dinner-debate in Brussels
ExxonMobil Energy Outlook 2040 with focus on Europe
At the invitation of ExxonMobil

07/10/2014  Dinner-debate in Brussels
Flexibility challenge - will market deliver?
At the invitation of Wärtsilä

21/10/2014  Dinner-debate in Strasbourg
The real challenge of renewables: integration into the distribution grid
At the invitation of EWE
EEF events

Renewables and gas – the perfect partners in heating
02/09/2014: Dinner-debate in Brussels

The EEF kicked off its series of events with a very well attended debate on gas and renewables. It was chosen to have two speakers to enhance objectivity because Eurogas and EREF are not of the same mind on all issues related to the subject. Jerzy Buzek, new President of the EEF informed the audience that from now on, the European Commission would make an official short contribution on the topic discussed. He thanked Dominique Ristori for his collaboration with the EEF and welcomed Mrs Donnelly.

Dörte Fouquet and Gertjan Lankhorst discussed renewables and gas, and their powerful combination in heating while identifying policies that can unlock their full potential. Mr Lankhorst concluded by saying that gas is an indispensable partner for renewables energy. Mary Donnelly, Director of Renewables, Research and Innovation and Energy Efficiency made an intervention stating the European Commission insisting on customer benefit, focus on services and dissemination of technology.

The following debate saw the questions of numerous MEPs from different Committees, parties and nationalities reflecting quite different points of view.
Jerzy Buzek new President of the EEF

Jerzy Buzek was elected new President of the EEF in July. Before that, he had been vice-president of the European Energy Forum since 2004. He is one of the best known MEPs but we nevertheless want to give our members the possibility to have a look at his notable professional path.

Jerzy Buzek, born on 3 July 1940 in Poland, is an academic lecturer and politician who was the Prime Minister of Poland from 1997 to 2001. He has been a member of the European Parliament since 13 June 2004, and was President of this institution for 2.5 years.

Mr Buzek studied at the Technical University of Silesia, Energy Engineering Faculty. He is author of approx. 200 research papers and patents and member of various academic and technical fellowships.

From 1997 to 2001, Buzek was a coalition Prime Minister of Poland. He was the first Prime Minister of the 3rd Republic of Poland to serve a full term.

His return to political life later in 2004 saw him gain the largest popular vote in Poland to the European Parliament with 22.14% of the votes. His current party affiliation is with the Civic Platform, the governing party in Poland, which is a member of the European People’s Party.

In the 2004–2009 European Parliament, he was a member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, a substitute member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and member of the Delegation to the EU–Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee.

In the European Parliament election, 2009, Mr Buzek was re-elected as a Member of the European Parliament and appointed President of the European Parliament with 555 votes of the 644 votes cast, the largest majority ever, becoming the first person from the former Eastern Bloc to gain that position.

Mr Buzek got re-elected at the European elections in May and will be dealing with issues related to industry, research and energy, as well as security and defence or foreign affairs, among others. He is the chairman of the Conference of Committee Chairs and the ITRE Committee in the European Parliament.

Pictures source: Website of Jerzy Buzek
The Future is Electric - Eurelectric exhibition  
10-11/09/2014, Brussels

As the European Parliament resumes its activities after the elections, our Associate Member EURELECTRIC is preparing a major exhibition outside the European Parliament on 10 and 11 September.

The Green eMotion electric rally: A showcase of an interoperable e-mobility system  
18/09/2014, Brussels

The EU’s flagship e-mobility project, Green eMotion will organise for the first time an electric vehicle rally from the Green eMotion demo regions to Brussels. The tour will culminate in a high-level conference with Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Transport, Siim Kallas which will take place in Brussels on 18 September.

7th CEWEP Waste-to-Energy Congress: LOCAL Energy from LOCAL Waste  
24-25/09/2014, Brussels

CEWEP, one of EEF’s Associate Members, will analyse the local exploitation of waste for energy production during the annual congress that will be held on 24 and 25 of September in Brussels. Karl F. Falkenberg (Director General, European Commission DG Environment) will open the congress as a key note speaker exploring “The Commission’s vision of a Circular Economy”.

7th International Gas Turbine Conference  
14/10/2014, Brussels

The 7th International Gas Turbine Conference (IGTC-14) organised by EEF’s Associate Member ETN, will focus on the required future GT technology developments from a user’s and a political point of view. The event will take place on 14 and 15 October in Brussels.