



Editorial

New Director General

Jean-Claude Charrault, Director General of the European Energy Forum for the last 17 years retired from the function in December 2012. He will continue collaborating with the EEF as a *Special Adviser*.

Pascale Verheust has been promoted to *Director General* as of 1st of January 2013. Pascale joined the EEF in 1999 and has steadily advanced in the secretariat becoming the Deputy Director General of the EEF in 2011.

A reception will be held on 29 January to recognise Jean-Claude's service to the EEF and to celebrate Pascale's promotion. The EEF invites its members to book the date.

The small Brussels based team of the EEF, headed by the Director General, maintains the contact with all Active and Associate Members and looks for subjects of interest for EEF events.

The team carries out the day-to-day management and logistics of EEF events. Pascale is supported by **Ángela Sainz**, *Assistant and Event Organiser* and **Maud Michiels**, *Administrative and Financial Assistant* who are key to the on-going success of the EEF.

The **Board of Directors** and **General Assembly**, composed of Members of the European Parliament, and the **Industrial and Technical Advisory Committee** (ITAC), composed of Associate members, assist the EEF in the planning of its activities.

[Read the article on page 3](#) by Jean-Claude Charrault, Special Adviser to the EEF.

Upcoming events

- 15/01/2013** Dinner-debate Strasbourg
Gas and renewables: Friends or Foes?
at the invitation of EUROGAS
-
- 22/01/2013** Dinner-debate Brussels
The role of biofuels in European Energy and Transport Policy
at the invitation of Neste Oil
-
- 29/01/2013** Reception Brussels
Reception on the occasion of the change of Director General
at the invitation of EEF
-
- 05/02/2013** Dinner-debate Strasbourg
EU ETS on the edge
at the invitation of CEZ Group
-
- 06/02/2013** Lunchtime discussion Strasbourg
Innovative Technologies ready for Supergrid
at the invitation of Friends of the Supergrid
-
- 19/02/2013** Dinner-debate Brussels
An evening discussion with Commissioner Oettinger
-
- 12/03/2013** Dinner-debate Brussels
The responsibilities of electricity distributors within the Smart Grids
At the invitation of ERDF and EDSO4SG





New Associate Members

The EEF welcomes two new Associate Members



EDSO for Smart Grids

[EDSO for Smart Grids](#) was founded in March 2010 to structure non profit cooperation among European distribution system operators for electricity and promote development and implementation of Smart Grids.

It is one of the three industry partners along with the Smart Grids Forum and ENTSO-E that have been invited by the SET-Plan Secretariat of the European Commission to constitute (together with Member States and the European Commission) the Electricity Grids EII (European Industrial Initiative).

[Per-Olof Granström](#), the Secretary General of the organisation since 2011, will be the main contact to the EEF. His background on the energy sector includes various positions in different European utilities and associations. Prior to his appointment as Secretary General, he was Director of European Affairs at Vattenfall, Executive Vice President at Svensk Energi/Swedenergy, Vice President/Director of trade at Nord Pool – the Nordic power exchange and Head of Generation and Trade at Stockholm Energi.



Nesteoil

[Neste Oil](#) is a refining and marketing company, with a production focus on premium-quality, lower-emission traffic fuels. The company produces a comprehensive range of major petroleum products and is the world's leading supplier of renewable diesel.

[Ilmari Lastikka](#) is the Sustainability and Regulatory Affairs Manager at Neste Oil Corporation and our contact in the company. His main responsibility is leading the EU level advocacy and stakeholder engagement. He is also heading the company's outreach project for intergovernmental organisations (e.g. World Bank, IFC, FAO, and UNEP) and Non-governmental organisations.



It's your turn now, Pascale Verheust

Dear Pascale, you accepted my job offer and we began working together on 7 June, 1999. Our collaboration has been highly satisfactory day after day ever since then and your professional development has been a success. You were able to establish the right relationships with people and the entities they work for: the European Parliament, industry, and the European Commission. You even recently opened our Association's door to the very special world of regulators.

When I "re-founded" the Association - now known as the European Energy Forum – at the time of the European elections in 1994 and with the benefit of President Rolf Linkohr's clairvoyance, I had already been working in these circles for 35 years. I was perfectly at ease in them and, most importantly, I had earned their trust. Here are two memories that are characteristic of this state.

First memory: a meeting between the Commission's Director General for Energy - who was still my boss at the time - and the president of our Association for the purpose of presenting its prospects for its development. The Director General's conclusion at the end of the meeting was: "I will help you with all of the resources at my disposal, knowing that your activity will be very beneficial to European energy policy and that your Association is not a lobby group for a particular industry or type of energy."

Second memory: the representative of a major German group came to tell me that his company would join the Association. He said "We're not joining because your President is German; we're joining because we know you!"

Indeed! Pascale, you've achieved the same result in a few years: you've earned the trust of your partners and know how to work with them.

I've followed the gradual progress and consolidation of your relationships with them. Following the success of our one-week study trip to the United States with 20 Members of the European Parliament - a success you were primarily responsible for – my mind was definitively made up. It was 2008 and you would be the one to take over from me when the time came. Once you had agreed, I presented my plan to our President, Mr Giles Chichester, on 20 April, 2010. I would like to thank him again for giving his approval. We gradually presented the plan to all of the member bodies of our Association: Bureau, Board of Directors, General Assembly and, especially, the ITAC (Industrial and Technical Advisory Committee) to which all of the companies associated with us belong.

No objections were voiced during these consultations and, Pascale Verheust, you are now the Director General of the European Energy Forum. I'm happy for both the Forum and for you!

My very best wishes!

Jean-Claude Charrault
Special Adviser