

# Information Bulletin

## November 2020



MEP Iskra Mihaylova Active Member of the EEF



In cooperation with the European Internet Forum



Wind Europe becomes Associate Member of the EEF



Summary of past Online Energy Events

## On the EEF Programme

## **Energy Transition and Digital Revolution**

**17 November— 10:00-11:30 a.m. (CET)** Online debate via Hopin—registration required In cooperation with the European Internet Forum



## **EEF** Members updates

#### MEP Iskra Mihalova becomes Active Member of the European Energy Forum

Iksra Mihaylova is Vice-Chair of the Renew Europe Group and comes from Bulgaria. Mrs Mihaylova is Member of the ITRE Committee, of the Delegation to the EU-Armenia Parliamentary Partnership Committee, the EU-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, the EU-Georgia Parliamentary Association Committee, and the Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly.

Mrs Mihaylova is also Substitute Member of the DEVE Committee, of the INGE Committee, as well as of the Delegation to the EU-Serba Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee.

Mrs Mihaylova's involvement in policies started in 2001 in the field of regional development. Mrs Mihaylova also acted as Minister of Environment and Water of Bulgaria (2013-2014) and was awarded the MEP Award 2017 for the category Regional Development. Today, Mrs Mihaylova works actively in the field of energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and energy transition towards energy decarbonization and green solutions, as well as on synergies between European policies.



## **EEF** Members updates





#### •WindEurope becomes Associate Member of the European Energy Forum

WindEurope is the voice of the wind industry, actively promoting wind power in Europe and worldwide. It has over 400 members, active in over 35 countries. In addition to wind turbine manufacturers with a leading share of the world wind power market, its membership encompasses component suppliers, research institutes, national wind and renewables associations, developers, contractors, electricity providers, finance and insurance companies, and consultants.



The main contacts to the EEF are **Pierre Tardieu**, Chief Policy Officer and **Viktoriya Kerelska**, Head of Advocacy and Messaging.

## **Online Energy Debate**

### Clean Fuels for all - 12 October 2020

The European Energy Forum organised an online energy debate to discuss the role of lowcarbon and alternative fuels with its Associate Members Fuels Europe and Neste.



**John Cooper,** Director General of FuelsEurope, explained the refining industry recognises that the use of petrol is expected to be reduced very steeply in the next years including having no role by 2050 carbon neutral Europe. Electrification and hydrogen are key technologies for the future of transport. Still, they have limitations and would hardly be able to fill the gap left by the steep reduction in petrol use. Low-carbon liquid fuels could be of help by playing a complementary role in transport and aviation, a possibility that should be recognised in the legislative framework. Creating a lead-market for low-carbon fuels in the transport sector is important.



**Peter Vanacker,** President and CEO of Neste, explained the many advantages of sustainable biofuels, whether renewable diesel or sustainable aviation fuel. A clear pathway of what we want not only by 2050 but also in 3-7 years is required for the industry to invest. Also, a technology neutral regulation is needed. Yet, biofuels are not enough alone to tackle the climate crisis. All feedstocks should be treated in a neutral manner welcoming all available solutions and boosting innovation and investment through a predictable operating environment. Cooperation with all is a key driver. There is a need for all alternative solutions and for keeping a clear and stable pathway to what is to be achieved.



**Claire Depré**, Head of Unit for Sustainable and Intelligent Transport at DG MOVE, European Commission, agreed on the need for the EU to use all levers at its disposal to match the 55% target by 2030. In transport, a lot still needs to happen. The adoption of a fuel mix perspective could be a good starting point. For maritime and aviation, it would be interesting to capitalize





the efforts done by the industry. She took note of the industry's need for certainty, to be attained through a work on regulation, investment, and capacity building. It is also important to understand what is available for consumers, within which range, as well as knowing the future steps. The Commission is ready to address all these points via several dedicated strategies. One key word: "complementarity of solutions".



The President of the EEF, **MEP Jerzy Buzek**, **MEP Radan Kanev and MEP Iskra Mihaylova**, Active Members of the European Energy Forum, as well as **MEPs Georgios Kyrtsos** and **Mauri Pekkarinen** provided some personal insights to the discussion. Points like technology neutrality, taxation incentives, country-specific differences, the preservation of the EU transport sector's competitiveness, as well as the need to develop human capital were all touched upon. An open exchange with the audience followed.

## Online Briefing for MEPs and Political Groups Advisers

## Hydrogen: The molecule of the future

#### 2-session briefing - 2 and 16 October 2020

The EEF Team and Associate Members came together to deliver an educational online briefing on hydrogen specially prepared for MEPs and Political Groups Advisers.

The first session of the briefing covered hydrogen entire value chain - from production to distribution and storage –, allowing participants to gain a deeper understanding of this molecule and providing them with the necessary tools to draw their own independent conclusions.



**Ondřej Knotek, MEP & Active Member of the EEF**, introduced the briefing by means of an overview of the topic: he described the current use of hydrogen and the relation between its sources and the environment, whilst also highlighting the existing limits and risks. Mr Knotek then concluded his introduction by sharing some personal predictions on the future of energy.





The explanations from the speakers from different Associate Members started from the very basics: what is hydrogen, exactly? Once the bases had been covered, the different sources, methods, and economics of hydrogen production were explained, along with the potential to produce green hydrogen at scale in Europe. The informative journey continued as the speakers shed a light on the element's ability to store electricity and explored various hydrogen storage solutions with the help of practical examples. The experts also illustrated different technical options for hydrogen transport and distribution, as well as their costs and tangible applications. The future of hydrogen in Europe was also discussed via the presentation of different studies on how transport and distribution are expected to evolve in the next decades.

**Mr Tudor Constantinescu**, principal adviser to the Director-General for Energy at the European Commission, contributed to the briefing, reviewing some of the main challenges to the development of an EU-wide hydrogen market, such as the necessity to boost demand and supply or the need for increased cost effectiveness and sustainability. The role and potential





of hydrogen, and especially green hydrogen, in the European Green Deal and in the achievement of carbon neutrality was also analysed. Investments and cooperation between all stakeholders remain key in decarbonising the energy sector.

The participants and speakers took part in a fruitful discussion where some notions, such as the role of hydrogen as decarbonisation factor or the costs and importance of energy storage, were reviewed, commented and clarified.

The second session of the Online Briefing on Hydrogen gave MEPs and Political Group Advisers the opportunity to further expand their knowledge on the topic, as speakers from a number of Associate Members delved deeper into the applications of this molecule in different sectors.

The meeting started with an overview on the present-day situation regarding hydrogen's current use, production, and demand. The main characteristics of hydrogen-based power generation were then explained, along with its advantages and the technical challenges that it poses. The conversation then moved on to hydrogen-based cogeneration: the technology, its process, uses and potential benefits were illustrated with tangible examples. The role of hydrogen in the decarbonisation of industry and transport, as well as possible applications in future projects, were also discussed

As in the previous session, **Mr Tudor Constantinescu**, principal adviser to Director-General for Energy at the European Commission, also intervened. He tackled a few key aspects of hydrogen production, such as the variety of existing options or the need for adapted local solutions. After briefly mentioning the topic of hydrogen valleys and islands and sharing some personal views, Mr Constantinescu concluded his intervention by underlining the diversity of options and approaches required to move forward, but also the potential for renewables across Europe.

The briefing concluded with an open exchange between speakers and participants, who were able to ask for clarifications and for the experts' input on different matters, such as the issue of adaptation from an end-user perspective and the compatibility of power plants equipment, but also hydrogen-related safety concerns or the market demand for Green Hydrogen.

## **Online Energy Debate**



Roadmap to decarbonise the EU energy sector by 2050: lessons learned from Spain and Denmark - 29 October 2020

October ended with a fruitful online energy debate on how to best decarbonise the EU energy sector, starting from what can be learned from the Spanish and Danish decarbonisation paths up to now.



**Gonzalo Sáenz de Miera**, Director of Climate Change at Iberdorla, believes decarbonising the energy sector by 2050 is feasible. Clean technologies are already cheaper than other ones in most sectors, and this trend will continue. Spain has already reduced its GHG emissions and achieved more affordable energy supply. With excellent renewable energy resources and a good level of human capital, it is now well placed to get even more opportunities out of the





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transition. Overall, what is needed is an increase in electrification, cooperation between citizens, firms, and governments as well as a clear European policy framework setting goals, defining plans, and guiding the economy towards the right direction.

**Anders Stouge,** Deputy Director-General of Danish Energy, explained how Denmark transitioned from a fossil fuels-based energy system to one mostly based on renewables. Despite initial fears, the transition made the country's economy prosper and develop new sectors now competitive on the global market, particularly that of green technologies. Denmark set itself a carbon emissions reduction target of 70% by 2030. All sectors will have to deliver, the share of electrification, both direct and indirect, will need to increase, and further support to the development of Power-to-X and CCS technologies will be required. Certainly, the consumer must be put at the centre, and this will happen with the help of digitalization.



The Green Deal involves a transformation of our ways of life, and **Clara de la Torre**, Deputy Director-General at DG CLIMA said this will not be easy. That is why the Recovery Fund must be used at the best to build back better. To reach the revised target for 2030, and climate neutrality by 2050, the EU needs to double the share of renewable electricity production. The building sector can contribute greatly to this, as well as to increasing energy efficiency and fighting energy poverty. R&I and the deployment of innovative solutions are also crucial. The Commission's Climate Pact will put all pieces together and reinforce dialogue among all actors: acting together and now is the only solution to win the challenge ahead.

**EEF President MEP Jerzy Buzek, EEF Directors MEPs Morten Helveg Petersen and Franc Bogovič, EEF Active Member MEP Tsvetelina Penkova, and MEP Nicolás González Casares** all agreed on the potential opportunities offered by the transition, and each made a personal reflection on what is most needed to transform these opportunities into reality. Some remarks were also offered by the EEF Industry Members in the audience.

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