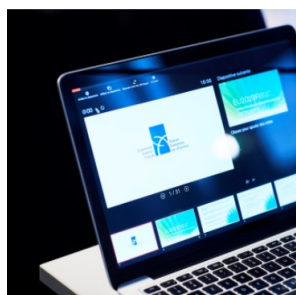
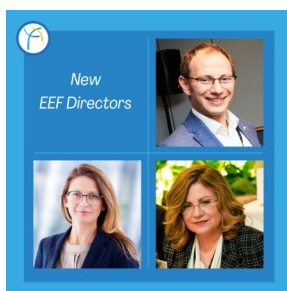


Information Bulletin

June 2021



New energy events
in the EEF pipeline



New EEF Directors



Axpo Holding AG becomes
Associate Member of the EEF



Summary of past
Online Energy Debates

On the EEF Programme

Heating and cooling technologies: an overview of energy efficient solutions to do more with less

Friday 18 June; 9:00 —11:15 a.m. (CET)

Online Briefing Session on Webex—registration required

Online Energy Debate on Energy Efficiency

Thursday 1 July; 12:00—13:30 (CET)

Online Energy Debate via Webex—registration required

EEF Members update



New Members in the EEF Board of Directors

On the 27th of May, the EEF held its annual General Assembly.

During this internal meeting, **MEPs Ondřej Knotek** (RE, Czechia), **Tsvetelina Penkova** (S&D, Bulgaria) and **Maria Spyraiki** (EPP, Greece) were appointed Members of the Board of Directors of the EEF.



MEPs Knotek, Penkova and Spyraiki expressed their gratitude for the appointment and said they will continue to support the EEF the best possible way.



The EEF Team is grateful for their commitment and enthusiasm, as well as for their strong involvement in all energy discussions, which has proved fundamental in this year of changes.

Axpo Holding GA becomes Associate Member of the EEF



Axpo is Switzerland's largest producer of renewable energy and an international leader in energy trading and the marketing of solar and wind power. More than 5000 employees combine experience and expertise with a passion for innovation. Axpo develops innovative energy solutions based on state-of-the-art technologies for its customers in over 30 countries in Europe, the USA and Singapore. Axpo's wind farm portfolio includes plants in France, Spain, Italy and Northern Europe. Through its subsidiary Volkswind, Axpo also contributes its expertise to the planning, project planning and construction of wind farms. Through its subsidiary Urbasolar, Axpo is active in the entire solar energy value chain. The Axpo Group includes Axpo Holding AG, based in Baden, and its subsidiaries Axpo Power AG, Axpo Solutions AG and Centralschweizerische Kraftwerke AG (CKW). Axpo is wholly-owned by the cantons and cantonal utilities of Northeastern Switzerland.



Axpo's main contact to the EEF is Mr. **Eberhard Röhm-Malcotti**, Head of EU Energy Policy.

Online Energy Debate

Low carbon secure supply in a climate-neutral Europe: how can nuclear contribute? - 12 May

The transition towards climate-neutrality represents a unique opportunity for the EU, but it comes along with some challenges, among which the need for secure low-carbon energy supply at affordable prices.

During this Online Energy Debate, our speakers, MEPs and EEF Members in the audience gathered to discuss the potential role of nuclear energy in securing energy in a climate-neutral Europe.



Hugues Hinterlang, Head of EU Public Affairs at Orano, explained nuclear energy could help meet the growing need for significant and uninterrupted access to carbon free electricity and support security of supply by complementing renewables, ensuring system reliability and competitiveness of prices. He touched upon the circularity of the nuclear cycle, through the recycling of nuclear fuel, to minimise impact on the environment and to protect resources. He also mentioned the work done in nuclear medicine and R&D. Nuclear today accounts for half of the EU low-carbon electricity generation. The EU nuclear industry is resilient, creates jobs and growth and already masters the whole value chain. Further upgrading of research will be essential to support innovation and the development of new nuclear technologies as well as to maintain the EU strategic autonomy.



Peter Claes, Vice-President of IFIEC Europe brought in the perspective of industrial consumers, who firmly support the Green Deal and a carbon-neutral EU by 2050. Alongside carbon-neutrality lay competitiveness and security of supply. Energy prices should remain affordable for

households but also competitive for industries so that they keep production in the EU. Access to energy should always be guaranteed. With growing electricity demand, all technologies will have a role to play: technology neutrality is key. While supporting further renewables roll out is of crucial importance, other technologies will also be needed, like carbon capture and storage and nuclear energy. The ageing of the EU nuclear fleet currently in operation calls for the development of new breakthrough technologies in third and fourth generation plants as well as Small Modular Reactors (SMR).



Reiterating the importance of technology neutrality, **Yves Desbazeille, Director General of FORATOM**, concentrated on how the Long-Term Operation (LTO) of existing nuclear power plants could help achieve the reviewed 2030 targets. According to the FORATOM high LTO scenario, nearly 85% of the additional GHG emission reduction required to achieve -55% by 2030 could be supported through the LTO of EU existing nuclear fleet, going up to 90% if new built capacity is added in. LTO has potential benefits on emission savings, consumer costs, EU energy security and system resilience, as well as advantages given the timely implementation of reasonably practicable safety improvements. Mr Desbazeille underlined nuclear industry's strategic value is not limited to power production: with 1.1M of generally high-skilled workers, the industry also contributes to the EU economic growth.



Massimo Garribba, Deputy Director-General responsible for the coordination of EURATOM policies at DG ENER, European Commission reminded our audience that it is Member States' right to decide whether to include nuclear energy in their mix. As of today, there are clear divisions among them, which may create difficulties in accompanying actions. When it comes to the EC, its role is to set the framework conditions under which nuclear should be operated. This has been done through the revision of the nuclear safety directive, the legislation on waste and fuel, on radiation protection as well as on non-proliferation and decommissioning, while the decision on nuclear inclusion in the taxonomy regulation is expected for June. In the future, technologies like SMR will be in the radar of the EC, as they likely bring about challenges related to the safety standards to apply and the need for coordinated licensing. Mr. Garribba finally called on the nuclear industry to speed up the completion of projects underway as recent delays risk tarnishing the image of the EU industry's success.



EEF President MEP Jerzy Buzek, EEF Director MEP Franc Bogovič, EEF Active Members MEPs Radan Kanev, Ondřej Knotek and Tsvetelina Penkova and MEPs Christophe Grudler and Jutta Paulus also took part in the discussion. While some of them openly shared their support to this technology and its active role in the EU future energy mix, others underlined the limits and disadvantages of nuclear stating that other options should be preferred. Besides providing opinions, our panellist MEPs also raised questions on radioactive waste and nuclear fuels recycling, on how to facilitate the uptake of innovative technologies, on the role of nuclear for heat production, as well as on nuclear power plants capital costs and nuclear energy prices profitability.

Online Energy Debate

Hybrid offshore wind projects: optimising energy flows across Europe - 27 May

This event presented an opportunity to learn and exchange on hybrid offshore wind projects, an evolving reality offering important benefits and advantages yet requiring overcoming some key challenges to be fully scaled up.



Bernard De Clercq, Head of EU Affairs at Elia Group, first suggested a clear framework covering permitting, the use of maritime space and an indication of specific zones for energy generation and transmission grids are required to develop the EU offshore wind potential. The TEN-E revision and the Fit for 55 package will also be key in getting all actors contribute to achieving the EU offshore wind targets. He zoomed in on hybrid offshore projects, which evolve from typical radial point-to-point solutions and represent a first step towards a meshed grid combining several wind farms and interconnectors. EU legislation should favour these projects based on international collaboration, incentivising countries with high offshore potential to develop them and supply their capacity in excess to countries with short renewable potential, to the benefit of the EU energy transition as a whole.



Nicola Medalova, Managing Director Interconnectors at National Grid Ventures, explained in the North Sea up to 220GW of offshore wind capacity could be installed. Offshore hybrid projects reduce the amount on infrastructure required, the overall investments needed and the number of landing points on the shores, with a positive effect on coastal communities, the maritime environment and the speed of the energy transition. Cooperation between the UK and the EU is essential, together with a compatible regulatory framework for market arrangements enabling coordination on infrastructure planning. The EU-UK trading cooperation agreement and the new class of Projects of Mutual Interest (PMIs) as foreseen in the TEN-E revision can serve as a good basis, while COP26 offers an opportunity to show Europe's leadership in these offshore wind technologies.



Giles Dickson, CEO of WindEurope, presented 5 types of hybrid offshore wind farms: combined grid solution, modular grid, interconnector tie-in, offshore hub, neighbour OWF (visuals available on our [website](#)), explaining how they help save money, space in the sea and improve energy flows across Europe. Being defined as Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) would be important for them to receive money via the Connecting Europe Facility to support the necessary network investments. Cooperation and coordination between countries as well as governments and TSOs, regulators and the wind industry on regional planning of grid infrastructure - better if done at a sea basin level and through a top-down approach - will also be key. Mr. Dickson finally suggested the introduction of a provision on the joint planning of the generation assets should as well be part of the TEN-E revision.



Joachim Balke

Joachim Balke, Head of Unit Networks & Regional Initiative at DG ENER, European Commission, clarified that the role of legislators – both in the Parliament and the Commission – is to identify the regulatory obstacles to hybrid projects’ scaling up while finding the best solutions. There are currently 4 main issues to be addressed via the TEN-E revision, which concern the development of an integrated vision on grid planning, the fair distribution of these projects’ costs and benefits between TSOs and consumers, the setting of the right incentive structures for the anticipatory investments required, the need to ensure coordination between different permitting timelines and procedures and the necessity to offer solutions remaining relevant for all EU Member States. Mr. Balke finally returned to one major point: nowhere more than here is cooperation a necessity for any objective to be achieved.



The speakers’ interventions were followed by remarks and questions from panellist **MEPs Jerzy Buzek, President of the EEF, Morten Helveg Petersen, Director of the EEF and Pernille Weiss, Active Member of the EEF** on permitting, market design, coordination between Member States’ NECPs and the Directive on maritime spatial planning. These many points opened a broader discussion with questions from the audience, adding the point of view of the regulators to the discussion and discussing the possibilities for hybrid offshore wind projects to also benefit EU Members States without access to sea.

