

Energy Transition: A multifaceted Challenge for Europe

1st Symposium: The impact of changing energy patterns on EU competitiveness

30 April 2014, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, CCE - Conseil Central de l'Économie, Brussels

Background

2014 will be a critical year for both the EU and its energy policy. Therefore, Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations and the Development Group will convene a series of three “EU Energy Symposia” followed by a “High Level Energy Conference” in Brussels in order to discuss various issues related to the multifaceted challenge of the EU energy transition towards a low-carbon economy.

The intense discussions held during the series of events organised in 2012 and 2013 (expert seminars and high level international conferences) showed that many questions related to the European Energy Transition towards a low-carbon economy require further in-depth analysis and debate. Therefore, the four upcoming events will address key issues that are currently at the core of the future European energy governance:

- 1st Symposium: The impact of changing energy patterns on EU competitiveness (30 April 2014)
- 2nd Symposium: How to finance the EU energy transition towards a low-carbon economy? (11 June 2014)
- 3rd Symposium: How to foster energy efficiency in the EU? (23, 24 or 25 September 2014)
- High Level Energy Conference: Designing the right 2030 EU framework for energy and climate policies (3 Dec. 2014)

This forward thinking project aims at fostering an intense debate at the EU level by bringing together the views of the EU decision makers with those of the industry and other energy stakeholders active in Europe.

1st Symposium: The impact of changing energy patterns on EU competitiveness

The issue of competitiveness has been brought to the top of the EU's energy policy agenda. There are a number of key energy trends and factors which altogether impact the energy utilities, the consumers and the industry in Europe, with a particular concern for the energy intensive industry. The main energy issues at stake are the rise of energy imports within the EU, the increase of energy prices and price differentials with other regions of the world, the increasing public intervention in energy markets through new regulation(s), levies and subsidies, the integration of a growing share of renewable energy into EU markets, as well as the internalisation of environmental concerns into the energy sector via certain policies and tools (ETS, Energy Efficiency Directive etc.).

In light of the recent Commission's proposal on the 2030 climate and energy framework, its Communication on energy prices and costs in Europe, as well as its Communication for a European Industrial Renaissance, and with regards to the conclusions of the forthcoming March European Council, this Symposium aims at addressing the issue of competitiveness in the field of energy. Therefore, Session 1 will focus on the

changing patterns in energy markets and their impact on EU competitiveness. Session 2 will look at how to handle and mitigate the impact of high energy costs on EU competitiveness.

Session 1 will address a. o. the following questions:

- What are the changing energy patterns that affect EU competitiveness, and how do they impact the industry, the energy utilities and the consumers in the EU?
- What are the main drivers behind high energy prices in the EU?
- What impact has the EU energy and climate package had on competitiveness within both the EU energy and industrial sectors?

Session 2 will address a. o. the following questions:

- What role can market coupling, cross border infrastructure, regional cooperation, energy efficiency, demand-side mechanisms, and innovation play in mitigating higher energy costs?
- What role should public support play in the energy sector, both regarding the development of indigenous energy sources and security of supply?
- What are the instruments available to large industrial energy consumers to avoid a loss of competitiveness due to increasing energy bills?
- How can the EU prevent the risk of carbon leakage, i.e. a delocalisation of part of its industrial base? How can the EU balance the need to increase carbon prices in order to promote investment in low-carbon technologies with the issue of carbon leakage?

General Procedure

The moderator will briefly introduce the topic and the speakers. Each speaker will then make a presentation for no longer than 10-12 minutes. Afterwards, the discussant will comment these presentations and raise the questions he/she might find of interest (around 10-12 minutes). The moderator will then launch the discussion with all participants.

Programme

09.00 - 9.15

Welcome address

Claudia HERING, Development Group

Marc OTTE, EGMONT – Royal Institute for International Relations

09.15 - 9.30

Keynote address “The European energy policy in a global context”

Dominique RISTORI, Director-General, DG Energy, European Commission

9.30 – 11.00

Session 1: What is the impact of changing patterns in energy markets on EU competitiveness?

Speakers:

- Giovanni BRIANZA, Head of Strategic Planning and M&A, Edison S.p.A.
- Baudouin KELECOM, Fuels Executive, Refining and Supply Planning, ExxonMobil
- Inge BERNAERTS, Head of Unit Internal Market II: Wholesale markets; electricity & gas, DG Energy, European Commission

Discussant: Jayesh PARMAR, Partner - Energy Advisory Services, Baringa Partners

Moderator: Clémentine d'OUTREMONT, Research Fellow, EGMONT - Royal Institute for International Relations

11.00 - 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 - 12.45	Session 2: How to handle and mitigate the impact of high energy costs on EU competitiveness?

Speakers:

- Matthew GORDON, Director EMEA Government Relations, Honeywell Europe
- Wolfram VOGEL, Director Public Affairs & Communications, European Power Exchange - EPEX SPOT SE
- Alexandre AFFRE, Director of Industrial Affairs, Business Europe

Discussant: Claude MANDIL, Board member of the SBC Energy Institute and former International Energy Agency (IEA) Executive Director

Moderator: Sami ANDOURA, Senior Associate Fellow, EGMONT Institute, and Senior Research Fellow at Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute

12.45 – 13.00	Concluding address: How can the 2030 energy and climate package foster EU competitiveness? Sandrine DIXSON-DECLÈVE, Director of the Prince of Wales's EU Corporate Leaders Group and Executive Director of the Green Growth Group
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13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
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