

Energy in Europe

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Editorial

Enhancing Europe's energy security remains a key concern of our Directorate-General. The preparation of an in-depth study of EU energy security and of a comprehensive plan for the reduction of EU energy dependence is our top priority. Both the study and the plan will be ready in time for discussion between the Heads of State or Government at the European Council of 26 and 27 June 2014.

While preparing the Strategy to increase Europe's energy security the Commission is taking concrete initiatives to support Ukraine.

President Barroso proposed to the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Putin, to engage in trilateral consultations (Ukraine, Russian Federation, European Union) to safeguard security of gas supply and transit through Ukraine. The Commission also acted as facilitator in negotiations between Ukraine and the Slovak Republic to bring gas, in large volumes, to Ukraine.

These negotiations led, on 28 April, to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Ukraine and the Slovak Republic and to a Framework Interconnection Agreement between the concerned gas pipeline operators, the Slovakian company Eustream and the Ukrainian company Ukrtransgaz. This Agreement will allow the transporting of up to 10 billion cubic meters of gas each year from the Slovak Republic to Ukraine. It is a first important step to reduce the dependence of Ukraine on direct gas imports from Russia.

I will keep you informed about our next steps towards achieving the common goal of energy security.

Dominique Ristori



Dominique Ristori
Director-General for
Energy

TRANS-ATLANTIC ENERGY RELATIONS: ENERGY COUNCIL AFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

02/04/2014 - The fifth EU-US Energy Council met in Brussels, chaired by EU High Representative/Vice President of the Commission Catherine Ashton, EU Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger and US Secretary of State John Kerry and U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman. The Council affirmed its strong support for Ukraine's efforts to diversify its supplies of natural gas, including through the rapid enhancement of reverse flow capacities, increase gas storage to maintain gas supplies to Ukraine and the EU, and take decisive measures to build a competitive energy economy. The Council further welcomed the prospect of US LNG exports since additional global supplies will benefit the EU and other strategic partners.

Read more at the following link

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-365_en.htm

GAS COORDINATION GROUP AND ROUNDTABLE ON SECURITY OF SUPPLY WITH THE GAS INDUSTRY

08/04/2014 - EU Energy Commissioner **Oettinger** chaired a meeting of the Gas Coordination Group as well as a Roundtable on Security of Supply with gas industry representatives in Brussels.

The purpose of both meetings was to take stock of the supply situation in Member States and to discuss possible measures to guarantee secure gas supplies in a coordinated manner, both on a short and mid-term perspective.

The meetings have been convened against the background of the March European Council, where the Commission committed to conduct an in-depth study of EU energy security and to present, by June 2014, a comprehensive plan for the reduction of EU energy dependence.

Read more at the following link

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-14-114_en.htm



11/04/2014 - There is a new mood of realism pervading debates about European energy and climate policy, and this was reflected in discussions at the April 2014 Lech Energy Forum.



Dieter Helm

Professor of Energy Policy,
University of Oxford

The new realism reflects three big challenges. First, US shale gas has changed the terms of trade, and there is almost no new energy intensive investment in Europe. Second, the renewables are not going to be competitive against conventional fuels for a long time to come. The illusion that European leaders had a decade ago that fossil fuel prices would rise so high as to render the renewables competitive has been exposed. Policy based on beliefs about future oil and gas prices are proving unsustainable. Third, the Russian annexation of Crimea has reminded Europeans that energy security is not something that can be taken for granted. The failure to learn the lessons of the interruptions of gas supplies in 2006 and 2009 is painfully apparent.

For all three reasons, the focus of discussion has shifted towards competitiveness and security. Climate change is unfortunately becoming a poor relation, whereas at Lech a couple of years ago it was the dominant topic. The economic recession, the failure of other key countries to take much action, and the sheer embarrassment of Europe's performance on climate change explain this downgrading. Europe has witnessed a dash for coal. Nuclear has been replaced by coal in Germany (including yet more lignite), gas has been replaced by coal, and new coal stations are coming on stream in Germany and across Europe. As a result emissions are again rising in production terms, and carbon consumption continues to rise.

Dieter Helm

COMMISSION WELCOMES BREAKTHROUGH LEADING TO GAS FLOWS FROM SLOVAKIA TO UKRAINE

Ukraine's security of gas supply has been significantly bolstered by an agreement allowing gas to be piped from Slovakia. The Memorandum of Understanding, signed on 28th April in Bratislava, will allow reverse flow gas deliveries to the Ukraine of up to eight billion cubic meters. The Commission facilitated the breakthrough, with the President of the Commission José Manuel Barroso joining Slovakian Prime Minister Fico and Ukrainian Energy Minister Prodan at the ceremony.



President Barroso welcomed the agreement, and reaffirmed "The EU's strong commitment in support of Ukraine's energy sector, which is also reflected in the economic and financial package the Union has swiftly provided in the past weeks." He also thanked Energy Commissioner Oettinger and his team for their central role in paving the way for the agreement.

Commissioner Oettinger said the gas deliveries "offer Ukraine access to gas priced on the basis of fair and transparent principles. It is important in this respect that Ukraine, particularly as a member of the Energy Community, makes swift progress in aligning its legal and regulatory framework with EU energy legislation. This will increase investor confidence and help the country to modernise its energy sector."

Read the press release: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-487_en.htm



Günther Oettinger @GOettingerEU

2 April 2014, Brussels

"EU-US Energy Council with Catherine Ashton, John Kerry, Yannis Maniatis and Daniel Poneman"



24 April 2014, Brussels

Midday press briefing on Ukraine/gas supply

Watch:

<http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player.cfm?ref=1088772&sitelang=en>

Background stories

Guidelines on state aid for environmental protection and energy 2014-2020

On 9 April 2014 the European Commission adopted new rules on public support for projects in the field of environmental protection and energy.

The guidelines establish rules for a gradual move to market-based support for renewable energy and provide criteria on how Member States can relieve energy intensive companies that are particularly exposed to international competition from levies for the support of renewables and other environmental taxes and charges. Furthermore, the guidelines include new provisions on aid to energy network infrastructure and generation capacity, as well as a revision of the rules on CCS and energy efficiency, taking into account provisions of the Energy Efficiency Directive. You can find further details on the substance of the Guidelines here:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/sectors/energy/legislation_en.html

The public interventions package of 5 November 2013 established the main principles that are now implemented by the Guidelines whereas the Commission Communication on Energy prices and costs in Europe gave deeper insights into the issue of drivers of energy prices.

Vulnerable Consumers

Member State instruments and practices are essential for supporting vulnerable consumers when it comes to providing energy. Many such examples have now been published on the Consumer protection page (3rd section) of the Europa ENERGY website. Some of these could be replicated in other Member States to improve the situation for vulnerable consumers, including those facing energy poverty. It should be a valuable resource for a wide range of stakeholders, such as Member State authorities. EU-wide coverage is not yet available, however, it is hoped that all Member States will shortly be included. Some of the main factors that drive and exacerbate vulnerability in the energy sector have also been established and are available on the website. This work was just one of the tasks of the Vulnerable Consumer Working Group, whose Guidance Document was published earlier this year.

Read the document: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/gas_electricity/consumer/consumer_en.htm

Question from a Member of the European Parliament

Question By MEP Svetoslav Hristov Malinov (PPE)

Subject: Negotiations between the Commission and Russia about revision of inter-governmental agreements on construction of the South Stream pipeline

On 17 January 2014, in Moscow, Energy Commissioner Gunter Oettinger and Russia's Minister for Energy embarked on the first stage of negotiations about aspects of the intergovernmental agreements concluded between Russia and the South Stream pipeline transit countries which the Commission has identified as being in breach of EU legislation. After the meeting it was announced that a special working group on the South Stream project, comprising representatives of Russia and the Commission, would be set up.

- 1. What was the Commission position outlined by Commissioner Oettinger at the talks in Moscow on 17 January 2014?**
- 2. What is Russia's position in the negotiations?**
- 3. What are the aims and tasks of the working group, the establishment of which was announced after the talks?**

1. The European Commission's long standing position on the South Stream pipeline was again conveyed to Minister Novak on 17 January in Moscow, i.e. that the pipeline has to be built and operated fully in line with EU rules. Commissioner Oettinger also informed Minister Novak about the support of the Member States concerned by the South Stream pipeline project to the set-up of the South Stream Working Group with an aim to start discussions on the project with the Russian Federation on their behalf.

2. It is not for the European Commission to interpret or convey the position of the Russian Federation on this issue. The intergovernmental agreements signed by the Russian Federation and the respective Member States are not in line with EU law, in particular the internal energy market legislation, and therefore do not offer a proper basis for the development of such a project.

3. According to the European Commission and the Member States concerned the objective of the South Stream Working Group is to find a sound legal and regulatory framework for the South Stream

pipeline project in line with the EU legal requirements under the Third Energy Package. The European Commission will carefully assess all other legal issues related to the South Stream pipeline project as well, including public procurement and environmental law.

Figure of the month

"Energy efficiency is vital for keeping our energy costs in check and mitigating climate change. Using less energy is paramount for ensuring security of supply in Europe. It is essential that all Member States put in place the legislation necessary to speed up energy efficiency measures.

40% *of EU energy consumption is in the buildings' sector and it is here where the most energy can be saved"*

[Read the full press release on the referral to Court of Belgium and Finland by the European Commission for failing to transpose EU rules on energy efficiency: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-447_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-447_en.htm)

Coming up next

Scheduled for Commission adoption

end May/early June 2014

- In-depth study of EU energy security and European energy security strategy

June 2014

- Report on state of implementation of the internal energy market

July 2014

- Communication on an Energy Efficiency Strategy (Review of the Energy Efficiency Directive)
- Communication on nuclear off-site emergency preparedness and response and nuclear third party liability and insurance

Calls For Tenders

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy/tenders/index_en.htm

Until 13 May 2014

Condensation trails from biofuel/kerosene blends scoping study

Until 23 May 2014

Events

20-21 May 2014

Concerted Action II

Read More at:

<http://www.ca-res.eu/index.php?id=7>

20-21 May 2014

26th Electricity Regulatory Forum

Link to agenda:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/gas_electricity/doc/forum_florence_electricity/meeting_026_agenda.pdf

22 May 2014

EU refining forum

23 May 2014

CEF ENERGY INFO DAY:

The event will present the priorities for the 2014 CEF Energy call for proposals - the first call under the new Connecting Europe Facility.

Multiple framework contract with reopening of competition for qualified legal, technical and economic expertise in the field of energy efficiency to support the Commission in the design, preparation and proper implementation of EU initiatives and legislation in the area of energy efficiency

Until 28 May

Support for Energy Star impact assessment and market penetration survey

Also ongoing (no deadline)

Horizon 2020: Experts wanted for biggest EU research programme yet

Read more at:

http://euparl.net/9353000/1/j9vvhskmycle0vf/vjis460b3gxb?ctx=vi03gkztbfkx&st art_tab1=20&tab=1

27 May 2014

European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG)

Public Consultations

Until 9 May 2014

"Establishment of the annual priority lists for the development of network codes and guidelines for 2015 and beyond"

To participate:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/gas_electricity/consultations/20140509_network_code_en.htm

Colophon

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