

## **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS -- ENEF PLENARY MEETING 2014**

The ENEF Plenary Session 2014 took place in Bratislava on 16 and 17 June 2014. The Meeting was opened by the Prime Minister of Slovakia Mr Fico, the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Mr Sobotka and the European Commissioner for Energy Mr Oettinger. The attendance was over 170 persons.

The **opening session** stressed the importance to take all aspects of the energy challenge into account in a balanced way: security of supply (as reinforced by the recent events in Ukraine), competitiveness and affordability, environmental protection and sustainability. The EU needs to tackle the energy challenge in a coordinated way, while leaving the choice of their energy mix to the Member States. For Slovakia and the Czech Republic, safe nuclear power is and will remain an important component of their energy mix. The European Commission's proposal for the Energy and Climate Framework 2030 provides the way forward, as a key intermediate step towards the decarbonisation objective for 2050.

ENEF has been active since 2007 with a specific focus on the Opportunities, Risks and Transparency aspects of nuclear energy. The time has come to take stock of the work done and to look to the future perspectives at this moment when the energy challenge is so high on the European Agenda.

The **session on Transparency** presented the "Foundation Principles for transparency and dialogue in determining the energy mix". Trust is the central keyword for such a dialogue, as demonstrated during the presentation on the deep geological repository process in Sweden. The "Foundation Principles" are a contribution to the wider debate which needs to take place at European level, with comparable representation from the diverse energy sources, and may come in support of establishing an appropriate governance mechanism.

The **session on Opportunities and Risks**, after reviewing the work done over the last year (study on costs of nuclear energy, reply to the DG Competition consultation on the Hinckley Point C case, proposal for a Recommendation on long term operation,...), discussed the "Methodology for Multicriteria Analysis" as a sound process to establish a level playing field allowing an informed and objective dialogue on the energy mix. Presentations by Poland and Eurelectric confirmed the importance to look at the whole electricity "system" to reach the good balance between its elements.

A **special session** was designed to allow participants to express their views on the future of ENEF and the participation in the wider dialogue on the energy mix, which is needed to benefit of the added value of looking at all aspects of energy sources. There was broad consensus on the high value of the work done in ENEF over the years and that it should not be lost, but, on the contrary, better used than in the past. Therefore, the best way for ENEF would be to enhance its role within the Berlin Forum.

During the **conclusion session**, the Slovak and Czech State Secretaries in charge of Energy reconfirmed the importance of nuclear energy for their countries and the need to develop a global approach at EU level, which is technology neutral and effective to tackle the challenges of security of supply, competitiveness and environmental protection.

Mr Garribba, Director DG ENER D, concluded the ENEF Plenary 2014 by proposing to rethink and

develop an appropriate structure for the future ENEF. His proposal was to form a small Steering Committee to analyse further and take stock of specific aspects of nuclear energy, and to feed the wider Forum, as necessary. The meeting was closed by warmly thanking the Slovak side for hosting the 2014 ENEF Plenary.

### Highlights out of the Opening Session

Mr Garribba introduced the Plenary by recalling the main challenges at stake: Security of Supply, Competitiveness and the 2030 Energy and Climate Framework. He also reported on the successful outcome on the Nuclear Safety Directive.

Prime Minister Fico insisted on the importance for the EU to set a framework conducive for Member States to solve their security of supply and competitiveness/investment challenges. The EU needs to avoid negative effects and help getting the proper operation of the market. The implementation of the revised NSD should not bring more red tape and bureaucracy. Slovakia is highly dependent on Russian gas transported via the Ukraine. Safe (Slovak VVERs are in top 5 safety according to IAEA) nuclear energy is and will stay a main strategic element of the diversified Slovak energy mix, targeting 80% low Carbon electricity for 2030. Mochovce units 3 and 4 should come on line in 2016/2017. And a new Gen III plant is foreseen in Bohunice, to contribute to the stability of the electricity supply and compensate for the intermittency of Renewables. There is a need to have a broad base discussion on the elements of the energy mix.

Prime Minister Sobotka recalled the importance of nuclear energy for the Czech Republic. The Czech industry is energy intensive and oriented towards export. Secure energy supply is vital in terms of competitiveness. Even if the ongoing decision process for Temelín has been stopped, it does not modify the political will to go ahead with nuclear in the Czech Republic. More nuclear plants are needed to replace the old coal plants. ENEF is an important forum to foster discussion on nuclear at European level.

Commissioner Oettinger recalled the evolution of energy policy making in the European Union, which started in 2007 with the 3x20 targets focussing on decarbonisation. Now we have high visibility for competitiveness and security of supply issues. The energy policy must support growth and this means affordable energy for industry. We have to avoid penalizing ourselves versus the USA and others, in a world where population and energy needs will escalate. All technologies must be respected and integrated properly within the internal market. Nuclear is there and will stay, via long term operation, new built Gen III and R&D for Gen IV. Investment needs in all sectors of energy production, transport and consumption are enormous. The 2030 Framework should help us to proceed in the good direction. And ways to foster investments are necessary. The UK Hinkley Point C case will serve as an example for others. Finally we need to integrate more the energy file into the European Union geopolitics, as it is demonstrated by the crisis in Ukraine, considering that nuclear energy provides more energy independence to the European Union.

For the European Economic and Social Committee, representing at large the people who work and use energy, Mr Buffetaut proposed to talk about a "Common Foreign Energy Policy for the EU". Reality is that nuclear energy is necessary in the mix. All energy sectors should learn from the ENEF methods to feed the debate, considering technical/economic, but also emotional aspects. It is particularly necessary to have a message of truth: "Il vaut mieux une vérité qui dérange qu'un mensonge qui rassure". Et "la vérité étant l'adéquation de la pensée à la réalité", il ne faut pas

d'idéologie dans le débat.

### **Highlights out of Session TRANSPARENCY**

The Session, chaired by Mr Adams, was introduced by a keynote speech of Mr Sebastian Sass on "how to overcome barriers in decision making in the energy sector". After a brief report of the last year activities of the Working Group Transparency by the Chair, two presentations were given by Mme Saida Larouchi Engstrom from Company SKB on "effective dialogue in Sweden on geological disposal", and Mr Gaston Meskens on "the Foundation Principles for energy dialogue". Slides of presentations can be found on the ENEF Website.

The Transparency Working Group of ENEF has explored whether there are universally applicable "foundation principles" which could help the continuing formulation and adaptation of energy policy in a rapidly changing world and offer pointers towards an effective governance process.

Both the Opportunities and the Risks Working Groups have been developing complementary approaches focussing on technical analysis, and this package of work taken together will provide an invaluable methodology establishing how decisions can be made which reflect the numerous trade-offs, technical, sectorial and national complexities in an all-energies policy.

ENEF Working Group Transparency suggests that any decision about energy policy needs to reflect the most inclusive stakeholder base possible. It will involve a "whole system" approach, a combination of technical and societal factors, and will be "values" –based. The key which will unlock progress on this complex issue is trust. Although ENEF is dealing with nuclear in the first instance, these issues need to be handled with an all-energy perspective, with comparable representation from other major energy sources.

ENEF needs to discuss how this can best happen – it is linked to the future of ENEF.

Three stages can be outlined:

- Identify principles and issues underlying a debate about energy and frame a response process (the ENEF Founding Principles Paper – annex 7 of the booklet distributed at the Plenary to all participants and available on the ENEF Website);
- Set up mechanisms (forums, round-tables, virtual dialogues,...) where stakeholder responses can be compared, evaluated and discussed;
- Use outcomes from such mechanisms to inform, influence or stimulate further discussion with decision-makers and also underpin effective governance processes.

Concerning this last point it is important that stakeholder involvement processes should also become part of formal politics, recognised as a strong element in more inclusive formal political decision making.

ENEF Working Group Transparency, as part of the one established forum for discussion on energy issues, proposes that one leading strand in this debate should be between seven generic groups of energy source providers, and also include energy savings and efficiency as an eighth reference

group. These would therefore comprise energy savings and efficiency, intermittent renewables, non-intermittent renewables, nuclear, coal, gas, oil, and new (unproven/undeveloped) technologies. And the nuclear strand would continue to be the remit of ENEF.

### **Highlights out of Session OPP and RISKS**

The Session, co-chaired by MM Camarcat and Beutier, was introduced by a keynote speech of Dr Stefan Hirschberg of PSI, on "a tool to support informed dialogue on EU energy" introducing the Multi-Criteria Analysis further discussed during the session. After a brief report of the last year activities of the WG Opportunities and Risks by the Co-Chairs, two presentations were given by Mr Michel Matheu for Eurelectric on "Security of supply – from resources to reliability of electricity supply", and Mrs Beata Sparazynska of the Polish Ministry of Economy on "the prospects for nuclear energy in Poland". Slides of the presentations can be found on the ENEF Website.

Using the opportunity of its 2014 Plenary Meeting in Bratislava ENEF WG OPP and RISKS want jointly to propose a process for a transparent, structured and informed dialogue between the various electricity sources in Europe. To feed this debate, that should not only involve power producers but also other stakeholders such as consumers, industry, regulators, interested citizen..., a shared methodology is needed. ENEF Working Groups are convinced that a level playing field is missing since long and the launch of the wide Berlin Forum might provide an opportunity to create one.

A Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) methodology has been developed and applied by a number of organizations in Europe (such as the Paul Scherer Institute (PSI) in Switzerland or the University of Manchester in the UK (Spring project)) to help clarifying the debate on the energy mix. Several European Research Programs such as Extern-E and NEEDS have also helped developing this methodology.

Applied to the electricity sector, the MCA methodology consists in looking at various elements of the electricity system (full energy chain, from resources to distribution) through a number of factors pertaining to economic, environmental and societal aspects.

To support a dialogue at wide EU level, the first step should be to agree on the list of factors (or "criteria") under each of the three aspects (economy, environment, societal). In a second step, these factors ("criteria") have to be quantified as objectively as possible. Finally, in a third step, weighting factors, affecting the three aspects (economy, environment, societal) will be added to the methodology by each stakeholder depending on their priority opinion or interest.

The ENEF Working Groups proposal is to apply this MCA methodology to the electricity system as a whole, in the framework of the "extended Berlin Forum", under the auspices of the Commission's DG ENER. The work already achieved by ENEF Working Groups provides a large amount of data and analysis of nuclear power on the three aspects - economic, environmental and societal - dealing with a wide spectrum of criteria. This set of criteria could potentially be revisited and expanded to cover the views of the different stakeholders of the energy sector. ENEF Working Groups think that sufficient data and analysis are available also from other energies and other organizations, to feed a multi-criteria analysis for the whole electricity supply system (including generation, transmission and distribution).

### **Highlights out of the Session on Preparing the wider Dialogue on EU Energy**

After a state of play presentation by Mr Boella (Head of Unit DG ENER D2) on the implementation of the Nuclear Waste Directive, Mrs Michaela Holl (DG ENER A2 – Communication) presented a global picture of the ongoing activities in DG ENER, in particular the Energy and Climate Framework 2030 and the EU Security of Supply Strategy. This presentation served as an introduction to a debate with the participants on the views for the future interaction between the nuclear energy issues and the wider debate on the energy mix, correlated with the next Berlin Forum, expected to take place early 2015.

Mr Gillet (French representative at the Atomic Questions Group) noted that ENEF had been created by the Commission on the basis of European Council Conclusions and that its future should also be discussed in these instances.

There was general consensus that ENEF has been particularly effective in the past years and that there is a need for focused discussion on nuclear aspects to feed into the wider broad horizontal debate on the EU energy mix.

### **Highlights out of the Concluding Session**

State Secretary Petrík recalled the lessons to be extracted from the different sessions of the Plenary 2014 and thanked the participants.

State Secretary Šolc insisted on the good results obtained till now in the ENEF and considered it was necessary to maintain the momentum, offering to host the next plenary in Prague.

Mr Garribba for the European Commission drew the following main conclusions:

- The choice of the energy mix is national and this needs to be respected. Decarbonisation, Security of Supply and Nuclear Safety are main drivers which support the continued use of nuclear energy in the European Union;
- It is also important to focus on the issue of investments, to try to reduce the investment risks;
- There is a need for intensification of the dialogue on Energy at wide level on technical and non-technical aspects. A further reflection is necessary to see how the Multi-Criteria Analysis Methodology can support such a dialogue;
- For the future, we have to take account of the upcoming changes in the Commission. So time is appropriate to rethink together the "architecture" of ENEF, now in place since 2007. It is proposed to set up a small Steering Group (6-8 people to be defined, but from different origin, chaired by the Commission) to revisit the mandate and prepare an effective way to feed nuclear inputs into the Berlin Forum meeting of early 2015.