

Energy in Europe

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Editorial

November was the first month of Jean-Claude Juncker's mandate as President of the European Commission. This has entailed a number of changes, both political and organizational.

Most importantly, President Juncker has made the establishment of a European Energy Union a priority for the coming five years. This will help to face the challenges of Europe's energy landscape, such as the Ukraine-Russia conflict and energy security, sustainability and the effects of high energy prices on Europe's competitiveness.

In the coming weeks we will have to define a strategy for the Energy Union. This strategy will take into account key priorities such as solidarity among Member States, in particular on security of supply, internal energy market, moderating energy demand, decarbonisation of the energy mix and technologies.

On 26 November, President Juncker launched the Investment Plan for Europe (EUR 315bn) for which Energy is one of the priorities. Our analysis confirms the need for yearly investments of up to EUR 200bn over the next five years. The energy sector will be at the heart of the Investment Plan because investment needs are huge and there are more mature projects in this sector than in any other sector. A specific focus will be on energy efficiency, renewables and energy infrastructure. Much work lies ahead, then, for our new Vice President for the Energy Union, Maroš Šefčovič, for Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Energy and Climate Action, and for the Directorate General for Energy. As you will see in this newsletter, both the Vice President and the Commissioner have already started their new functions with a lot of activities.

Dominique Ristori



Dominique Ristori
Director-General for
Energy

EU LAUNCHES INVESTMENT OFFENSIVE TO BOOST JOBS AND GROWTH, 26 NOVEMBER 2014

On 26 November, the European Commission announced a € 315 billion Investment Plan to get Europe growing again and get more people back to work. According to European Commission estimates, taken as a whole, the proposed measures could add € 330 - € 410 billion to EU GDP over the next three years and create up to 1.3 million new jobs. The Plan is built on three main strands: (1) Mobilising additional finance for investment; (2) A credible project pipeline coupled with technical assistance to channel the money where it is needed; and (3) A Road Map to tackle barriers to investment.



(EBS Ref. P-026818/00-16)

Read the full press release: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-2128_en.htm

Read President Juncker's speech: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-14-2160_en.htm

BREAKTHROUGH: 4,6 BILLION DOLLAR DEAL SECURES GAS FOR UKRAINE AND EU, 31 OCTOBER 2014

After seven rounds of gas negotiations, the talks moderated by Günther H. Oettinger, Vice-President of the European Commission, finally yielded a breakthrough: A 4,6 billion dollar winter package, agreed by Russia and Ukraine, secures gas for Ukraine - and ultimately also for Europe. José Manuel Barroso, former President of the EC, and Maroš Šefčovič, in his capacity as former Vice-President of the EC in charge of Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration, participated in the signing ceremony of the agreements together with Andriy Kobolyev, CEO of Naftogaz of Ukraine, and Aleksey Miller, CEO of Gazprom.



(EBS Ref. P-026554/00-25)

Read the full press release: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-1238_en.htm

Watch the signing ceremony and press conference:
<http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player.cfm?sitelang=en&ref=1094777>

EU INVESTS €647 MILLION IN KEY ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE, 29 OCTOBER 2014

On 29 October, Member States agreed to allocate €647 million to support key priority infrastructure projects. The bulk of the support goes to gas projects in the Baltic region as well as in Central Eastern and South Eastern Europe. Funding will come from an EU programme called the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). The supported projects will increase Europe's energy security and help end the isolation of Member States from EU-wide energy networks. They will also contribute to the completion of a European energy market and the integration of renewables to the electricity grid.

Read the full press release: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-1204_en.htm

Read the MEMO: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-605_en.htm



Events in the spotlight

HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE ON EU ENERGY POLICY AND COMPETITIVENESS, 17 NOVEMBER, BRUSSELS

"There is no energy security without a fully functional and completed Internal Energy Market. The European Council recognised the urgency of achieving a fully functioning and connected internal energy market. The Italian Presidency is rightly insisting on the necessity of a completed internal energy market. As a major energy market with half a billion consumers, an integrated and transparent internal energy market will be the backbone of the Energy Union."

Read the full speech of Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete: http://www.covenantofmayors.eu/news_en.html?id_news=597

Watch the entire conference: <http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player.cfm?sitelang=en&ref=1095293>

HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE ON BUILDING A EURO MEDITERRANEAN ENERGY BRIDGE, 19 NOVEMBER, ROME

"Secure, sustainable and affordable energy is also a key priority for the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. Energy cooperation is a key priority for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The EU and the countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean now have a unique opportunity to work together towards developing new sources of energy, new gas and electricity networks, integrating our markets, and cutting demand through improved energy efficiency."

Read the full speech of Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-14-1902_en.htm



(EBS Ref. [P-026745/00-42](https://ec.europa.eu/ebs/ref/P-026745/00-42))



Featured posts from Social Media



Maroš Šefčovič @MarosSefcovic

28/11/2014: "W/ AZ Pdt I. Aliyev on what needs to be done for completion of Southern Corridor before 2020. #EnergyUnion"



Miguel Arias Cañete @MAC_europa

20/11/2014: "Turkey is a reliable energy partner and a key #Southerncorridor ally. Agree to foster cooperation w/ Minister Yildiz."



Question by Francesc Gambús (PPE) to the Commission

Subject: Internal energy links in the EU

Current tensions between Russia and Ukraine could once again result in Russia shutting off its gas supply line to the EU. In view of the fast-approaching European winter, this uncertain state of affairs is all the more worrying. Since a large number of Member States are dependent on Russian gas, a growing number of voices are lobbying the EU to take more forceful decisions on the creation of internal links to bolster energy security in the Union and reduce the dependence on certain countries.

In view of the above, does the Commission intend to support the MIDCAT project with a view to setting up internal gas links between Catalonia and France?

The Commission supports the MIDCAT project between Spain and France as it is included in the list of projects of common interest (PCI) established in the context of the TEN-E Regulation¹. This means that the implementation of the MIDCAT project can be facilitated, as it can benefit from accelerated permitting procedures, from regulatory incentives and from grants made available under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) programme. The CEF can co-finance studies for preparing the ground for the development of projects and/or, in exceptional cases, for constructing projects that have clear benefits beyond national borders and are commercially not viable or not affordable to users in the relevant region.

In addition, MIDCAT has been included in annex 2 of the European Energy Security Strategy Communication² which lists key security of supply infrastructure projects. This means that the implementation of the MIDCAT project by 2020 is expected to enhance diversification of supply and strengthen solidarity.

Finally, the Commission intends to monitor closely the MIDCAT project so that the project can be operational by 2020.

¹ Regulation No347/2013 of 17 April 2013 on guidelines for trans-european energy infrastructure – OJEU L115/39 of 25.04.2013.

² Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council COM(2014)/330 of 28/05/2014.

Background story

NOVEMBER INFRINGEMENTS

Reasoned opinions

BULGARIA and HUNGARY are requested to fully transpose the EU legislation on energy efficiency

On 26 November, the Commission formally requested **Bulgaria** and **Hungary** to ensure the full transposition of the Energy Efficiency Directive (Directive 2012/27/EU). Under this Directive Member States must achieve certain energy savings over the period from 1 January 2014 till 31 December 2020. They have to do this by using energy efficiency obligations schemes or other targeted policy measures to drive energy efficiency improvements in households, industry and transport sectors. Other requirements include energy audits for big companies every four years, increased rights for consumers regarding metering and billing of their energy consumption, renovation of at least 3% of central government buildings annually and energy efficient public purchasing.

The Commission sent a reasoned opinion to Bulgaria and Hungary asking them to notify the Commission all their transposition measures for the Directive, which had to be transposed into national law by 5 June 2014. If the Member States do not comply with their legal obligation within two months, the Commission may decide to refer them to the Court of Justice. In July 2014 the Commission started infringement procedures against 24 Member States (all except Cyprus, Italy, Malta and Sweden) that had not notified the Commission of all national measures transposing the directive into national law.

More information here: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/eed/eed_en.htm

GREECE is requested to comply with its obligations under the EU legislation on energy efficiency in buildings

On 26 November, the Commission formally requested **Greece** to take action to fully comply with its obligations under the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (Directive 2010/31/EU). Under this Directive Member States must define the minimum energy performance requirement for buildings and building elements, calculate the cost-optimal level how to get there and notify this information to the Commission. This is a crucial aspect of the Directive as it sets the minimum energy performance requirements that new and renovated buildings must meet. The original deadline of 30 June 2012 for notifying this report to the European Commission was extended to 21 March 2013 in order to take into account the publication of the Commission delegated Regulation 244/2012 on the cost optimal methodology. The Commission's request takes the form of a reasoned opinion under the EU infringement procedure. If Greece does not comply with its legal obligations within two months, the Commission may decide to refer the Member State to the Court of Justice.

More information here: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/buildings/buildings_en.htm

Security of gas supply: ROMANIA is asked to comply with EU rules

The Commission has formally requested **Romania** to ensure full compliance with EU rules on security of gas supply. The EU Security of Gas Supply Regulation (EU) No 994/2010 aims to ensure that Member States are well prepared to deal with possible supply disruptions. To this end, Member States have to enable bi-directional gas flow across borders and prepare emergency and preventive action plans in advance. The European Commission sent today a reasoned opinion to Romania.

To date Romania has failed to notify to the Commission the adoption of a Preventive Action Plan and an Emergency Plan as requested under the Security of Gas Supply Regulation. Neither has it informed

the Commission about its decisions on bi-directional gas flows. Respective authorities in the Member States had to adopt Preventive Action Plans and Emergency Plans already by 3 December 2012. The decisions on bi-directional gas flow had to be taken by 3 September 2012. Romania has two months to comply with its obligations as otherwise the Commission may decide to refer the case to the Court of Justice.

More information in on the Energy Security Stress Tests here:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/stress_tests_en.htm

Source: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-2130_en.htm

Publications in the spotlight

Energy solutions for smart cities and communities - Lessons learnt from the 58 pilot cities of the CONCERTO initiative



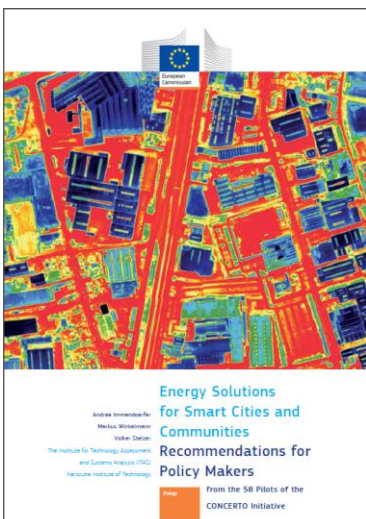
Energy Solutions for Smart Cities and Communities

Lessons learnt from the 58 pilot cities of the CONCERTO initiative

Edited: Steffen Luderer (on behalf of the European Commission, DG Energy)

http://concerto.eu/concerto/images/library/concerto_publications/2014-03_concerto-premium_lessons-learnt_sez_en.pdf

Energy solutions for smart cities and communities - Recommendations for Policy Makers from the 58 Pilots of the CONCERTO initiative



Energy Solutions for Smart Cities and Communities

Recommendations for Policy Makers

From the 58 Pilots of the CONCERTO initiative

http://concerto.eu/concerto/images/library/concerto_publications/2014-01_concerto_premium_recommendations_for_policy_makers_final.pdf

Scheduled for Commission adoption

January/February 2015

- Progress report on renewable energy directive
- Review of Energy Labelling Directive
- Communication on Energy Union Strategy

Calls for Tenders

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

Ongoing (no deadline)

Horizon 2020: Experts wanted for biggest EU research programme yet

Upcoming events

10-11 December 2014

SET-Plan Conference, Rome
<http://www.setplan2014.it/>

In 2015

12 February 2015

Smart cities info day
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=events&eventcode=A2BB2E69-0D3D-13D9-D927C5762E197D63>

26-27 February 2015

Heating & Cooling conference
(more info later)

Colophon

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