

Background

The EU has committed to engage with the transition to a low-carbon economy, and to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 80-95 % by 2050. In its "Roadmap 2050" released on 8 March 2011 and designed as the long-term European strategy for this transition, the European Commission envisages that energy production alone must support a reduction of 93-99 % i.e. to become almost carbon-neutral. The EU transition to a low-carbon society may be described as the "third industrial revolution," requiring a massive transformation of the energy sector: from production, transport and distribution to use and storage.

The central issue underpinning these challenges is the future choice of energy sources within the EU. The European Commission has outlined in its Energy Roadmap released on 15 December 2011 seven potential scenarios for such a transition to occur, in which all energy resources are taken into consideration. These scenarios raise major questions which have to be further discussed by all energy stakeholders.

Meanwhile, this debate takes place at a time of "unprecedented uncertainty", which makes the decisions to be taken even more difficult. The choice of optimal energy source(s) is indeed complicated by continuing uncertainty over technologies, which, if developed and deployed, could drastically impact the European energy system by 2050 and their potential share in the energy mix across Europe.

In light of the prevailing trends, the question for the European Union is how upcoming developments can deal with the numerous and wide energy issues it faces today and in the future on an unprecedented scale. The future of its energy policy has thus become a major long-term geopolitical, economic, environmental and social concern for Europe. The major decisions to be taken in the coming years in order to achieve these crucial objectives will commit states and industries over decades and will drastically impact the energy picture of Europe.

Against this background, the International High Level Energy Conference will address the EU strategy and policy measures for the decarbonisation of the energy sector by 2050, as well as the successive steps in the agenda, focussing among others on the following horizontal key questions: What are the core energy resources for the transition? What are the necessary energy infrastructures and technologies? What levels of governance are required (local, national, regional, EU and/or international)? What are both the responsibility and the contribution from the private sector?

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Energy Transition by 2050: A multifaceted Challenge for Europe International Energy Conference

10 May 2012, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
at Résidence Palace, Brussels



Programme

<p>9.00 - 9.30 Welcome address - Amb. Marc TRENTESEAU, Director General, Egmont Institute</p> <p>Keynote address - Prof. Samuele FURFARI, Professor of "geopolitics' of energy", Free University of Brussels</p> <p>9.30 - 11.00 Session 1: A low carbon energy mix: What are the core energy resources for the transition?</p> <p>Energy Roadmap 2050 - How do we seize opportunities of the transition to a low carbon energy system, while avoiding pitfalls on the way? <i>Dr. Tudor CONSTANTINESCU, Principal Advisor, European Commission, DG Energy</i></p> <p>The future role of natural gas - Backbone of the energy transition or only back-up for renewable energy sources? <i>Dr. Gerhard KÖNIG, Chairman of the Board of Managing Directors WINGAS & Member of the Board of Executive Directors, Wintershall</i></p> <p>Energy transition by 2050 - The role of large scale solar photovoltaics (PV) <i>David WORTMANN, Vice President Public Affairs EU, North and Eastern Europe, First Solar GmbH</i></p> <p>What is the contribution of nuclear energy as a low carbon energy source? In fine, are renewable and nuclear energies compatible? <i>Jean-Pol PONCELET, Director General, FORATOM</i></p> <p>Chair: <i>Karel BECKMAN, Editor, European Energy Review</i></p> <p>Session discussion</p>	<p>11.00 - 11.15 Coffee break</p> <p>11.15 - 12.45 Session 2: The transition towards a new energy system: What are the necessary energy infrastructures and technologies?</p> <p>The EU policy for developing clean energy technologies <i>Marie DONNELLY, Director, New and renewable sources of energy, energy efficiency Innovation - European Commission, DG Energy</i></p> <p>How to successfully develop and deploy new clean technologies at the EU level? <i>Charles SOOTHILL, Senior Vice President Technology, ALSTOM Power</i></p> <p>Energy Infrastructure - Perspectives by 2050 <i>Catharina SIKOW-MAGNY, Deputy Head of Unit "Energy policy and security of supply", European Commission, DG Energy</i></p> <p>Long term optimal use of top-down, bottom-up and horizontal energy in EUMENA <i>Paul VAN SON, Chief Executive Officer, Dii GmbH</i></p> <p>Chair: <i>Karel BECKMAN, Editor, European Energy Review</i></p> <p>Session discussion</p> <p>12.45 - 1.30 Lunch</p>	<p>1.30 - 3.00 Session 3: What levels of governance are required, and what are both the responsibility and the contribution from the private sector?</p> <p>Towards a European Energy Community for the 21st century <i>Jerzy BUZEK, Member and former President of the European Parliament</i></p> <p>What is the responsibility but also the contribution from the private sector to the energy transition? <i>Mike DIEKMANN, Senior Vice President, Gas Purchase West, VNG - Verbundnetz Gas AG</i></p> <p>How to develop a long-term European framework together with all stakeholders <i>Dr. Susanne NIES, Head of Energy Policy & Generation Unit, EURELECTRIC</i></p> <p>Challenges for energy-intensive sectors: An industrial consumer's perspective <i>Dr. Peter BOTSCHEK, Director Energy, Health, Safety & Environment, European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic)</i></p> <p>Chair: <i>Arne MOGREN, Programme Director Power, European Climate Foundation</i></p> <p>Session discussion</p> <p>3:00 - 3:20 Concluding remarks</p> <p><i>Sami ANDOURA, Senior Associate Fellow, Egmont Institute and Senior Research Fellow, Notre Europe</i></p> <p>3.20 - 4.00 Get together (deepening conversation, private talks, networking)</p>
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