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Energy Transition: A multifaceted Challenge for Europe

2nd Symposium: How to finance the EU energy transition towards a low-carbon economy?

11th June 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 Symposiums” 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? (24 September 2014)

High Level Energy Conference: Designing the right 2030 EU framework for energy and climate policies (3 December 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.

Programme

The energy transition requires **major investment** in many areas, including infrastructure for energy production, transportation and distribution, as well as innovation, energy efficiency, security of supply, and environmental protection. In addition to the consequences of the economic crisis, an increasing number of factors both within and beyond the EU affect investment in the EU gas and electricity sectors.

Given the **ongoing revision of EU regulations and instruments, which will inevitably impact investment decisions in the energy sector**, particularly the revision of the EU environmental and energy state aid guidelines, the reform of the EU ETS, the proposal on the 2030 framework for energy and climate policies, the Communication on the Long-Term Financing of the European Economy, the implementation of the list of “projects of common interest” (PCI), and the related EU funding from the Connecting Europe Facility, it is timely to call for further debate on the main factors that affect investment in the EU energy sector and how to address them.

09.00 - 09.15 **Welcome address**
Development Group & Egmont Institute

09.15 - 09.30 **Keynote address: “What is the role of finance in the transition towards a low-carbon economy?”**
Juan ALARIO, Associate Director Energy Department, European Investment Bank

09.30 - 11.00 **Session 1: Why is it currently difficult to invest both public and private funds in the European energy transition?**

Speakers:

- Michel MATHEU, Head of EU Strategy in the Public Affairs Division, Electricité de France (EDF)
- Beate RAABE, Secretary General, Eurogas
- Dr. Jayesh PARMAR, Partner - Energy Advisory Services, Baringa Partners

Discussant: Mechthild WÖRSDÖRFER, Director, Directorate A - Energy Policy, DG Energy, European Commission

Moderator: Sami ANDOURA, Senior Research Fellow, EGMONT Institute & Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

11.00 - 11.15 **Coffee break**

11.15 - 12.45 **Session 2: How to promote the necessary investment in the European energy transition?**

Speakers:

- Dr. Dominik THUMFART, Managing Director, Head of Infrastructure & Energy, Capital Markets and Treasury Solutions, Deutsche Bank
- Holger GASSNER, Head of Strategy & Regulatory Affairs, RWE Innogy
- Karim DAHOUE, Executive Manager, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD

Discussant: Tudor CONSTANTINESCU, Principal Adviser to the Director-General, DG Energy, European Commission

Moderator: Clémentine d'OULTREMONT, Research Fellow, EGMONT Institute

12.45 - 01.00 **Discussion and Concluding remarks**

01.00 - 02.00 **Lunch**