



**ΚΑΠΕ
CRES**

CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE
ENERGY SOURCES AND SAVING

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Content:

Climate Change

Energy (*Energy policy, Security of supply, RES, Nuclear*)

Miscellaneous

Calendar



CLIMATE CHANGE

1. PREPARATION OF THE COP 16 MEETING

16/04/2010 - Climate Action Commissioner Connie Hedegaard took part in the Major Economies Forum on energy and climate (MEF) in Washington DC on 18-19 April, only a few days after the resumption of the laborious UN negotiations in Bonn which have produced no more than a timetable for discussions (see bulletin 7). The MEF, which was set up by US President Obama last year, will provide the commissioner with a further opportunity to intensify consultations with key partners - chief among which is the United States, which wants to pursue negotiations on the basis of the Copenhagen Agreement, while the EU and developing countries are insisting that this non-binding agreement be anchored in a set of action-oriented decisions in the next stage of the UN negotiating process.

27/04/2010 - Commissioner Connie Hedegaard vigorously called for the EU not to drag behind when it comes to green investment and not to let itself be overtaken by China, the United States and South Korea. It is a mistake to say that third countries are not doing anything, she stressed, when there is currently a pronounced tendency to make massive investment.

- China has \$230 billion in green investment,

-The United States are investing \$80 billion in clean energy,

-while the Union is only investing \$25 billion.

Connie Hedegaard confirmed that the European Commission was preparing a communication proposing options to increase the reduction of European emissions from 20% to 30% by 2020. Given the results of first analyses, it would seem that it is technically and economically possible to reduce emissions by 30%. Two years ago, when the energy/climate package was negotiated, the cost of reducing emissions by 20% was estimated at 70 billion. Due to

CALENDAR

4 May 2010

The European Parliament will host the annual Covenant of Mayors

11-12 May 2010

Valencia conference on the Mediterranean Solar Plan (are expected representatives of the 43 countries of the Union for the Mediterranean)

11 June 2010

Environment Council, which will have international climate talks and the question of carbon leakage on its agenda.

16-17 June 2010

European Summit last under Spain presidency

29 nov-10 dec. 2010

Cancun Conference (COP 16)

the financial crisis, this will be less expensive than planned. It is considered that this effort should cost one third less than initially estimated.

29/04/2010 - The EU and China have taken a step towards strengthening their policy dialogue on climate change with a view to moving towards greater cooperation and concrete results (i.e. regular consultation at ministerial and expert levels).

2. PATH TO LOW CARBON ECONOMY

19/04/2010 – Poland’s NAP - The Commission has approved, Poland's new national greenhouse gas emissions allocation plan (NAP) for 2008-2012, the second trading period of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) (Directive 2003/87/EC).

28/04/2010- Clean and energy efficient vehicles - The European strategy for encouraging the development and eventual widespread use of clean and energy efficient vehicles aims to help the European car industry to strengthen its leading role globally basing its production on clean and energy-efficient technologies. As part of the EU 2020 strategy on smart and sustainable growth, this strategy defines the medium-term orientations for enhancing competitiveness in the EU car industry and asserting its spearhead role in the production of clean and energy-saving vehicle production.

In 2020, conventional vehicles will still be the main means of transport but electric vehicles will be close behind, whose production is currently expanding rapidly. According to forecasts, the number of cars in the world will increase from 800 million to 1.6 billion, to reach 2.5 billion units by 2050. This expansion will be accompanied by increased energy scarcity and costs, to which technological development will have to respond in order to guarantee long-term sustainable mobility. Electric vehicles with ultra low carbon emissions and powered by hydrogen batteries constitute the most promising options in this connection.

Specific action for electric vehicles. Although the Commission is neutral on what technology ought to be selected, it does, nonetheless, consider that the European framework is in need of electric mobility systems. This is even more apparent because electric vehicles (particularly hybrids) are considered ready for the large distribution market and several member states, Germany, Denmark, Spain, France and Portugal are promoting electro-mobility. The Commission has announced a certain number of actions that are more orientated towards enhancing the capacity of this technology. It is therefore seeking to:

- pay particular attention to the safety of new vehicles in comparison to their conventional equivalents;
- promote common standards to enable all electric vehicles to charge anywhere in Europe; - encourage the installation of publicly accessible recharging stations;
- promote cutting-edge smart electric networks;

- and update regulation on recycling batteries.

The Commission will relaunch the activities of the high-level CARS 21 group.

ENERGY

1. ENERGY POLICY

16/04/2010 - In the press release published after the 10th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Renewable Energy Sources (EUFORES), organised with the assistance of the Belgian parliament, in Madrid, [Claude Turmes](#) (Greens, Luxembourg), [Anni Podimata](#) (S&D, Greece) and [Fiona Hall](#) (ALDE, UK), EURFORES President and Vice-Presidents respectively, call for a target of making the EU energy mix 100% renewable energy by 2050.

20/04/2010 - In Warsaw, speakers at the 2010 Annual European Wind Energy Conference (EWEC) predicted that wind energy would supply 50% of EU electricity demand by 2050. Given wind power's potential in the EU, a European super-grid will have to be put in place to which all the electricity produced from renewable sources could be linked, the Association says.

2. EU ENERGY LEGISLATION

15/04/2010 - Draft directive on the energy performance of buildings

The Council adopted its position at first reading on the draft directive on the energy performance of buildings, which seeks to clarify, strengthen and extend the scope of the current directive, 2002/91/EC, and to reduce the considerable differences in member states' practices in this sector. Its provisions address various regulatory and information-based instruments and cover energy needs for space and hot water heating, cooling, ventilation and lighting for new and existing, residential and non-residential buildings. It prescribes that, from 1 January 2021, all new buildings must be zero energy buildings, that is, they produce at least as much energy as they consume. Member states should set intermediate targets for 2015. The public sector is called on to show the example by owning and occupying only buildings which meet the zero energy standards, with effect from 1 January 2019. On 28/04/2010 The European Parliament energy committee (ITRE) gave unanimous approval to the revised draft directive

15/04/2010 - Draft directive on the labelling of energy consumption

The Council adopted its first reading position on the draft directive on the labelling of energy consumption and other resources by energy-related products. The new text seeks to extend the scope of the current directive, 92/75/EC, which is limited to household appliances (fridges, freezers, washing machines, tumble driers, dishwashers and ovens), products consuming energy for industrial or commercial purposes, such as cold stores, displays and automatic dispensers, and construction

products, which do not directly consume energy, but which have a direct, indirect or significant effect on energy savings, such as windows, window and door frames and external doors. The new energy labelling system will still be based on the sliding scale, from A (green, energy efficient) to G (red, poor energy rating), but provides for three additional classes, A+, A++ and A+++. The system of associated colours, from dark green for the most energy efficient to red for the least, will be amended as a result of the changes, but the most efficient class will remain dark green and the least red. On 28/04/2010 The European Parliament energy committee (ITRE) gave unanimous approval to the revised draft directive.

3. EXTERNAL SECURITY OF SUPPLY

a) Russia

21/04/2010 - Presidents Dmitry Medvedev and Viktor Yanukovich signed a Russian-Ukrainian agreement on extending the lease of the Russian Black Sea Fleet base in the Crimea after 2017 for a period of 25 years with a possibility of further prolongation for another five years, i.e. Russia will keep its Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol until at least 2042. In exchange, the heads of Gazprom and Naftogaz signed supplements to the gas contracts, which envision a 30% discount on gas import prices that would be worth \$40 billion to Ukraine over the next 10 years. The Russian Government, not Gazprom, will pay for the gas price discount. The existing 30% import duty on gas supplied to Ukraine will be cancelled or substantially reduced. The formula for calculating the gas price for Ukraine is preserved as is the *take-or-pay* provision. Naftogaz hopes a 30% discount on gas prices for Ukraine will help the company avoid bankruptcy.

The signing of the accord on extension of the Russian Black Sea Fleet's presence is seen as a big success of Russian diplomacy. Some experts say that the Fleet will ensure the security of the borders and, in the future, the South Stream pipeline.

End of April - Intensified contacts of the Russian leadership with Europe, including this week's visits of President Medvedev to Norway and Denmark, reflect Moscow's "more active policy" toward Europe. A breakthrough was reached with Norway on the delimitation of the border in the Barents Sea and the Arctic Ocean. In addition to discussions of energy, environment and cooperation in the Arctic and Baltic regions, Medvedev and Danish PM Lars Lokke Rasmussen signed a Partnership for Modernization declaration.

b) Nabucco

16/04/2010 – EU-Azerbaijan. The commissioner Gunther Oettinger spoke to President Aliiev of the key role which the EU sees Azerbaijan playing in the realisation of the pan-European Nabucco gas pipeline project, both in terms of gas transit and supplies. Azerbaijan can supply the major part of the gas for Nabucco, though not all since Baku has commitments on the supply of gas to its neighbouring countries, Oettinger acknowledged. He highlighted the importance of the other gas suppliers,

including Turkmenistan, for Nabucco, though he showed some scepticism over the involvement of Iraqi and Iranian gas at this point.

Oettinger announced that a decision on Nabucco would be taken by the end of 2010. To this end, the European Commission intends to hold an international conference on Nabucco in the autumn with all the countries concerned taking part. Confirming his country's interest in Nabucco, Aliiev nevertheless stressed that the commercial, economic and environmental risks of the project had to be weighed up and that gas supply sources had to be set out clearly and unequivocally, long-term agreements on gas supply had to be signed and transit arrangements had to be negotiated. He also denied claims that his country would not have enough gas to supply Nabucco. Azerbaijan has up to 2,200 billion cubic metres of exploitable gas reserves, with annual extraction put at 23.5 billion cubic metres.

27/04/2010- An agreement by Turkish energy company Botas and Azerbaijan energy company Socar on the transport of gas from Azerbaijan to the EU via Turkey have been signed. Turkish energy minister Taner Yildiz said the deal covered all supply issues for Azerbaijan gas, including its cost. He said that Turkey and Azerbaijan were vital partners for the introduction of a southern corridor for gas from the Caspian and the deal paved the way for a strategic allocation of gas for the southern corridor to ensure the energy security of Turkey and the EU. In a press release, the EU Energy Commissioner said that this strategic allocation of gas also meant that Azerbaijan was consolidating its role as a key EU partner in the Caucasus and the Caspian Sea. The deal is a further step in the establishment of the Nabucco gas pipeline for which Azerbaijan has promised to provide with gas.

23/04/2010- The Nabucco pan-European gas pipeline project took a further step towards becoming a reality with the launch of a call for tenders to supply construction materials, such as pipes and steel valves. This first phase of the procurement process, worth 3.5 billion, will close on 17 May. In 2008, the total cost of the Nabucco project was estimated at 7.9 billion by the consortium responsible for its construction¹. Work is due to begin at the end of 2011. The pipeline will initially link Turkey and Austria, with gas flowing through this section by 2014. Extension work will continue until 2016 and its capacity will be gradually increased to 31 billion m³ by 2018.

c) South Stream

24/04/2010 –Austria is joining the South Stream gas pipeline project. The agreement was signed in the framework of PM Vladimir Putin's visit to Austria. Austria has become the seventh country to sign on South Stream. Earlier, Russia signed agreements on the project with Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary, Greece, Slovenia and Croatia. The particular importance of the agreement with Vienna should be underlined as Austria and its energy company OMV have been and remain "the driving force" of the EU-backed Nabucco gas pipeline project designed to supply Caspian gas to Europe, bypassing Russia.

¹ The consortium responsible for the construction of Nabucco is composed by OMV (Austria), RWE (Germany), MOL (Hungary), Transgaz (Romania), Bulgargaz (Bulgaria) and Botas (Turkey) energy companies.

At a joint press conference with Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann, Putin assured that Russia can guarantee gas supply to its clients in Europe "for the next 100 years". With reference to Nabucco, he described as "pointless and extremely dangerous" "building a pipeline without supply contracts". Energy Commissioner Guenther Öettinger's recent visits to Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan confirmed Nabucco's Achilles heel, i.e. lack of the resource base.

26/04/2010 - During his official visit to Italy, the Russian prime minister, Vladimir Putin, had signed a deal with Italy whereby French electricity company EDF would be involved in the South Stream gas pipeline programme. Putin said the deal on EDF's involvement alongside Italy's ENI and Russia's Gazprom would be signed in St Petersburg in June this year. EDF is expected to account for 20% of the consortium to build the gas pipeline under the Black Sea between Russia and Bulgaria to supply the EU with gas from Russia from 2015 onwards.

3. GAS MARKET

29/04/2010 – The EU gas committee² agreed new requirements to ensure transparency on gas networks. Information gas flows and available capacities is needed, not only to make best use of the existing infrastructure and guarantee all operators non-discriminatory access to networks, but also to ensure good management in times of supply emergencies. After consultation with the European Parliament, the new rules will come into force on 3 March 2011.

Improving transparency is a key point in EU policy on liberalising markets and security of supply. Implementation of the 3rd legislative package on liberalising the internal energy market is expected to bring major improvements in terms of transparency with regard to network use, and gas and LNG storage, the Commission says in a press release. The provisions on transparency for gas networks are set out in the Annex of regulation 715/2009/EC on conditions for access to the natural gas transmission networks and repealing regulation 1775/2005/EC. The main improvements are:

- information on available and used network capacity will be provided to all network users faster and in greater detail so that all gas suppliers will know how to transport gas most efficiently, cheaply and quickly to the consumer;
- the format for publication of the information will be standardised throughout the EU so that information is comparable across different networks;
- increased information will be published on how to calculate tariffs for the use of gas networks;
- network users will be better informed on the possibility of interruptions and on the liabilities they face when transporting gas through the European networks;

² The EU gas committee is composed of member state experts and chaired by the European Commission.

- all suppliers will be better informed on the trading of capacity between network users.

4. NUCLEAR³

28/04/2010 - The European Parliament decided to back the amended draft regulation on the provision of Community financial assistance for the decommissioning of the Kozloduy nuclear power station in Bulgaria. The amendments brought by the committee seek to strengthen the provisions in the regulation on the environmental safety of the decommissioning programme and to set out details of the financial monitoring. The committee stresses that the closure programme for Units 1 to 4 at the Kozloduy power station must help restructure, modernise and improve energy generation, transmission and distribution in Bulgaria, with focus on renewables and energy efficiency and on training programmes to help those employed in the Bulgarian nuclear industry find work in these sectors. The committee also highlighted that the loss in generation capacity related to the early closure of Kozloduy had led to a significant increase in CO2 emissions, requiring additional efforts from Bulgaria on CO2 emissions reduction. The committee approved a 300 million envelope for the implementation of the programme, to take account of its long-term impact on the environment, the economy and security of energy supply.

29/04/2010 - The results of the last Eurobarometer survey on nuclear safety show that an overwhelming majority of citizens consider European legislation would be useful with regard to radioactive waste management. Those living in countries where there are nuclear power plants as well as those living in countries that have chosen not to use nuclear energy have expressed concern about the safety risks inherent to radioactive waste.

Management of radioactive waste. Results show that 82% of European citizens consider the management of radioactive waste should be regulated at European level. This feeling is absolutely constant throughout the EU. On this, there is practically unanimity in Cyprus (93%), Hungary (90%), the Netherlands (90%) and Slovenia (90%). Also, even in countries where this point of view is the least popular, there is nonetheless a sound majority - such is the case for Austria (59%), the United Kingdom (60%) and Malta (62%).

Safety of nuclear installations. While European citizens are also concerned about nuclear material that could be used with evil intent or for terrorist purposes, a large majority (59%) consider it is possible to use nuclear power plants safely. The EU average remains stable compared to the results of the 2006 survey. Results differ considerably from country to country - in 14 countries, there were more responses

³ The choice of using nuclear energy, or not, is up to the member states, in conformity with the principle of subsidiarity. At present, 15 member states out of 27 have nuclear plants, but there are only a few projects for definitive storage centres for the most dangerous categories of radioactive waste. The European Commission plans to table draft Community legislation on the management of radioactive waste during the second half of 2010. To this end, it is currently carrying out a public stakeholder consultation exercise.

showing that citizens consider safe use of nuclear plants is possible, especially in Ireland (+11%), Poland and Luxembourg (+9%), and Malta, Estonia and Italy (+6%). On the other hand, these figures were down in Bulgaria (-9%), Germany (-7%), France and Romania (-5%).

MISCELLANEOUS

1. EDUCATION

30/04/2010 - Supported by the European Commission's energy fund and produced by reputed creators of animation, the new European series of My Friend Boo is on the issue of energy in the world and is the result of a new fun-filled educational approach for children's education. Messages and scenes in this animated series have been developed with the support of experts, especially the WWF, and have been tested at each key stage in production with some 100 children in Belgium, Bulgaria, Ireland, Italy and Poland. My Friend Boo tells the history of three young friends - Ben, Jaq and Lucy - and a magic dog, Boo, who takes the children off into fantastic adventures in order to help them better understand the challenges involved in energy saving, renewable energy and sustainable transport. My Friend Boo is a project that should significantly improve the way Europe communicates to children on current global challenges. My Friend Boo will be broadcast this autumn on the leading channels in over 14 countries in Europe. Discussions are underway with other world distributors. Episodes will also be diffused in schools, clubs and associations throughout the EU, in each of the languages concerned.

2. MAIN ACTS PUBLISHED IN OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF EU

20 April 2010/**L98**: Commission Decision of 19 April 2010 on the European Commission becoming a partner in the Global Bioenergy Partnership.

20 April 2010/**C101**: Opinion of the European Data Protection Supervisor on the proposal for a Council Directive on administrative cooperation in the field of taxation.

24 April 2010 /**L104**: Commission Regulation 347/2010 of 21 April 2010 amending Regulation 245/2009 as regards the ecodesign requirements for fluorescent lamps without integrated ballast, for high intensity discharge lamps and for ballasts and luminaries able to operate such lamps

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