



**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

03/05/2010 - The European commissioner for climate action is continuing her political consultations with international partners in the hope that the international conference in Cancun (COP 16, 29) will make a number of concrete decisions.

05/05/2010 - Annual EU Canada summit- European and Canadian leaders decided to follow high ambitions with respect to climate challenges, agreeing that adaptation to climate change and mitigation are key global challenges that should be supported by suitable energy policies. Cooperation should be geared to funding mechanisms and to supporting clean development in third countries.

2. PATH TO LOW CARBON ECONOMY

04/05/2010 - After the signature of the Covenant of Mayors¹ of more than 500 European mayors the number of signatories rised to more than 1600 cities, local and regional authorities in 36 countries, representing 120 million citizens, committed to cutting CO2 emissions by more than 20% by 2020 through energy savings and the increased use of renewables.

In signing the declaration, the mayors pledge to analyse how much CO2 their cities emit at the moment, outline how they will reach the goal, evaluate the action taken, raise awareness among citizens and share best practice.

Thus, among the cities which have already signed the Covenant, the city of **Heidelberg** (Germany) has reduced its CO2 emissions by nearly 40% from public buildings through

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)
- 17 May 2010
Round table meeting with European industry on the move to a low-carbon economy, to be held in Brussels.
- 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
- 1 July 2010/31 Dec 2010
Belgian presidency of the EU Council
- 29 nov-10 dec. 2010
Cancun Conference (COP 16)

¹ www.eumayors.eu

energy monitoring stations and the “Energy Teams” in the city's schools; the city of **Riga** utilises the methane gas produced in the city's waste tip to produce electricity; and **Antwerp** uses a refurbished industrial warehouse as a showcase for sustainable building and a demonstration centre for citizens.

Local authorities have a key role in mitigating climate change, the European Commission says in a press release. Over half of greenhouse gas emissions are created in and by cities. Eighty per cent of the population lives and works in cities, where up to 80% of energy is consumed.

ENERGY

1. ENERGY POLICY

05/05/2010 - The President of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek, and former President of the European Commission Jacques Delors, founder of the Notre Europe thinktank, issued a statement calling for the setting up of a European Energy Community to meet the challenges of climate change, energy security and the economic crisis. They explain that Europe needs a stronger common energy policy to guarantee access to energy at a reasonable and stable price, to preserve competitiveness, promote sustainable development and encourage a low carbon footprint. Such a policy should mobilise investment to encourage tomorrow's industrial prospects and ensure secure energy supplies to everyone in Europe. Although crowned with success, EU policies for liberalising energy supplies are no longer sufficient in themselves and therefore the two politicians call for the setting up of a European Energy Community to implement an effective common energy policy based on an initial group of Member States that are prepared to commit to the project and are able to use of strengthened cooperation to drive the project forwards.

In order for it to be coherent, the EU's energy policy will require measures like strengthened energy networks, diversification of supply by making greater use of renewable energy sources and greater investment in green technology R&D, greater energy efficiency for both production and the end consumer (to be achieved by a change of behaviour) and a 'single interface' for EU relations with the rest of the world, particularly energy producing and transit countries.

2. EXTERNAL SECURITY OF SUPPLY

a) Russia's new foreign policy

21/04/2010 - Presidents Dmitry Medvedev and Viktor Yanukovich signed a Russian-Russian Newsweek magazine revealed the content of Russia's new foreign policy programme, obtained by the magazine. A classified document, entitled "The Programme for Effective Use of Foreign Policy in the Long-Term Development of Russia", pushes for the establishment of partner relations with the West with a view to

attract foreign investment. The document reflects President Dmitry Medvedev's goal of modernization of the Russian economy and highlights lack of funds and the need for advanced technology for the modernization of Russia as the main reasons behind a shift in Russia's foreign policy.

Russia's 'New Deal' also envisions the Partnership for Modernization programme with the EU, which is planned to be adopted at the EU-Russia summit in Rostov-on-Don later this month.

Russia-Ukraine

6/05/2010 - Gazprom-Naftogaz merger?

Apparently V. Putin suggested a merger between Gazprom and Naftogaz in order to create a company all along the gas chain from exploration to distribution. The European Energy Commissioner, Günther Oettinger, underlined that the European Commission has no role to play in this dossier at this stage, hinting that the proposed merger between Gazprom and Naftogaz comes solely under the Russian and Ukrainian governments. For the moment the project seems to be disavowed by President Dmitry Medvedev.

Russia-China

14/05/2010- Gazprom and CNPC

still disagree on gas price: According to a deal signed in October 2009, Gazprom should in 2014 start supplying annually 70bn cubic meters of gas to China. After signing the deal, CNPC requested that the price should be at the level that is several times lower than the average Central European gas price.

3. EU ELECTRICITY MARKET

07/05/2010 - Over a year after it was set up in February 2009, the reliability of the Coreso Centre (based in Brussels) in providing early warning of major disruptions to electricity supplies in the centre-west of Europe is clear. It has significantly increased the inter-grid operational capacity of electricity transport in centre-west Europe (Germany, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom) in response to new integration challenges for electricity grids arising from renewable energy and the increase in international sales of electricity within the EU.

4. NUCLEAR²

² 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.

4/05/2010 - ITER status and possible way forward (Communication from the Commission (ref : COM(2010) 226 final) The Commission approved a Communication which, following a request by the Council of 16 November 2009, examines and addresses the ITER status and possible way forward, in particular as regards the financing gap and related governance conditions.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. MAIN ACTS PUBLISHED IN OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF EU

State Aid (12 May 2010/L118) Commission Decision of 24 March 2009 on Greek state aid C 47/05 (formerly Í 86/05) for Hellenic Vehicle Industry SA (ELVO) ruling that the aid is not compatible with the single market

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