

Energy transition in France

What to expect from the new government?

Date 5 October 2017 time 8, 15-14, 00

Venue: Palais Bourbon – Salle Victor Hugo
101 Rue de l'Université, 75007 Paris, France

The 'Clean Energy for all Europeans' package of legislation is the EU's response to the Paris Agreement on climate change, setting out the bloc's energy and climate policies for 2030.

As the package makes its way through the EU institutions for final adoption, EURACTIV invites you to a debate focusing on France's unique position at the heart of European energy and climate policy.

With a new government now firmly in place, is France again poised take a leading role in driving forward the EU's climate diplomacy? Join us for a half-day of debates organised around three main themes:

Session 1: Smart Cities & Energy transition

Session 2: Renewables energy directive revision, what place for biofuels?

Session 3: France – Leading the way into a low-carbon future? What is the role for solar?

PARTNERS OF THIS FORUM ARE:



MEDIA PARTNERS:



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KEYNOTE SPEECHES

Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President
European Commission for Energy
Union

M. Roland Lescure, Président de la
commission des affaires économiques

Mme Barbara Pompili, Présidente de
la commission du développement
durable et de l'aménagement du
territoire

PROGRAMME

08:00 – 08:30 Registration and welcome
08:30 – 10:15 Keynote & Session 1 (*page 2*)
10:15 – 10:30 coffee break
10:30 – 11:45 Session 2 (*page 4*)
11:45 – 12:00 coffee break
12:00 – 13:15 Session 3 (*page 5*)
13:15 – 15:00 Networking lunch

The event will be in French
English translation will be provided

Session 1 :

Smart Cities & Energy transition

Energy transition is a crucial dimension in the Energy Union and in the legislative package "Clean Energy for All Europeans" presented by the Commission in November 2016.

This places the distribution network at the heart of measures to effectively absorb locally produced energy, in particular renewable energies (90% of renewables are connected to the distribution network close to consumption sites). To become a smart grid, the distribution network becomes a digital interface, from which the smart cities of tomorrow will emerge and consumers become "actor- consumers" (thanks in particular to the smart meter interface).

The challenge is not only important for the distribution networks but also for Europe as it concerns the economy, industry, environment and technology (development of new means of production, massive renovation of buildings, invention of new energy models at the local level) but also society as a whole (societal challenge for the acceptability of lifestyle changes).

The energy transition is challenging network companies, by making their specifications more complex. The systems are no longer limited to large production units (power plants) or import (LNG terminals) but also integrate myriads of small units (wind, photovoltaic, biogas, etc.) all territories, which overturn the previous cartography. These renewable energies are very generally connected to distribution networks (not to the transport network such as large units), which have not been designed or dimensioned for this collection function. The role of distribution networks is crucial, because at the same time, new uses are being developed, such as electric vehicles.

- Is the winter package the right ally to the ongoing energy transition?
- How could be the future of the grid and the grid of the future ?
- How the grid of the future could contribute and promote smart consumers and smart cities?
- How do cities, utilities, and private stakeholders approach the smart energy for smart cities market collaboratively? Can France be considered as a leader?



Welcome and introduction: Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission

Moderator: Aline Robert, EURACTIV,fr Chief editor

Speakers:

- Michel Derdevet, Secretary General & member of the Executive Board of Enedis ;
- Mme Anne Bringault, CLER - Réseau Action Climat France,
- MEP Krišjānis KARIŅŠ, European Parliament
- Claude Turmes, Member of the European Parliament
- Gérard Wolf, Chairman TF Sustainable Cities MEDEF International

MEDIA PARTNERS:



Session 2:

Renewables energy directive revision, what place for biofuels?

The European Commission's "Clean Energy for all Europeans" package of legislation was presented in November 2016 and is being discussed in the European Parliament. Based on the EU's commitment to cut CO2 emissions by 2030, the package also aims, amongst others, at accelerating renewable energy innovation.

RED II forecasts a 50% reduction of 1st generation biofuels used in transport by 2030. This is intended to promote 2nd generation biofuels even if their production capacity is not yet sufficient and they would benefit from further research.

- Does this truly represent innovation in the French Energy supply chain?
- Can the EU horizon 2030 objective be achieved by reducing biofuels usage in transport up to 3.8% when France already uses 7%?
- What is the impact of this EU proposal in growth and jobs for France?
- Would a phase-in period be a more pragmatic approach in the transition between 1st and 2nd generation biofuels?

Welcome and introduction : Roland Lescure, Chairman of the Committee on Economic Affairs

Moderator: Patrice Moyon, Ouest France

Speakers:

- Pierre Cannet, Responsable du programme Climat, Energie et Villes Durables, WWF France
- Michel Dantin, Member of the European Parliament (video)
- Thomas Pellerin Carlin, Research Fellow, Jacques Delors Institute
- Megan Richards, Director of Energy Policy – DG Energy of the European Commission
- Sébastien Windsor, Agriculteur, président de Terres Inovia et administrateur de la Fédération Française des producteurs d'oléagineux et protéagineux

Session 3:

Session 3: France – Leading the way into a low-carbon future. What is the role for solar?

The EU can lower its dependence on imported fossil fuels and make its energy production more sustainable by using more renewables to meet its energy needs. Renewable energy can be produced from a wide variety of sources including solar, hydro, geothermal, wind, tidal and biomass.

The renewable energy industry also drives technological innovation and employment across Europe.

In particular, solar has shed the ‘new energy’ label, earning its role as an essential component of any robust power generation portfolio. It has also demonstrated that it can compete, on an unsubsidized basis, with virtually any conventional power generation technology even in the most hydrocarbon-rich regions of the world.

With over 7-gigawatts of installed solar PV capacity, France is already a significant global player. Since it exchanged its feed-in-tariff program for a tender-based procurement system, the country has established a clear path towards sustainably achieving its goal of generating 32 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2030.

- What can companies do to keep up with the pace of change: technological, economic, and commercial in an industry as disruptive as solar PV?
Is this global trend sustainable from an economic perspective?
- Can the ‘Clean Energy for all Europeans’ package be the tool to restore Europe’s dominant position in the clean energy space?
- How could France’s tendering system be improved and replicated in other EU countries?

Welcome and introduction: Barbara Pompili, Chairman of the Committee on Sustainable Development and Land Use Planning

Moderator: Giulietta Gamberini, La Tribune

Keynote Speaker: Mark Widmar, CEO First Solar ;

Speakers:

- Dr. Paolo Frankl, International Energy Agency
- Xavier Barbaro, CEO NEOEN France
- Virginie Schwarz, Directrice de la Direction de l'Energie-French Ministry