



**Annual Congress 2015**

## **Think Energy Union Act Local**

**15 October 2015**

EU Thon Hotel, Brussels

### **High-level opening session: Involve citizens and local actors in the European Energy Union**

This session will gather high-level speakers from the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Council presidency along with local energy companies and their local shareholders. In the framework of the energy transition, they will discuss the Energy Union strategy and how local actors – citizens, local authorities and companies - can be fully involved in the action plan to ensure a sustainable, reliable and affordable energy supply for the Europe Union.

### **From Paris 2015 to EU 2030 – Is Europe leading or lagging?**

The session will focus on the European energy and climate policies. Only weeks before the start of the international climate summit in Paris, it will feature presentations and an open debate on what should be the EU positioning in the upcoming negotiations. Will Europe be on the stage as a credible leader in change and innovation ?

The session will also leave room for the debate about the EU's own policies, such as the governance of the 2030 climate and energy package. It will bring together different industry stakeholders and policy-makers who will discuss how the governance of the 2030 framework should be designed to be effective, accountable and credible.

### **Local multi utilities: Outdated or innovative?**

Local multi utilities have been existing for many years in a number of Member States of the European Union. They are operating close to citizens, are rooted in the local economy and are an important local employer. At the same time, they are delivering a package of public services (energy, waste, broadband, water and transport) that allow for substantial synergies. In an increasingly complex, digitalized and fast-moving world, how can the concept of a local multi utility contribute to the future goals ?

The session will provide case studies from bundled products and services offered by local utilities that illustrate how synergies can be realized effectively, for the benefit of citizens and customers.

#### **Building synergies in local energy infrastructures (heating & cooling, power, natural gas)**

The heating and cooling sector, that represents 40% of EU energy demand, is moving into the focus as the European Commission will present a strategy paper in 2015. Like for electricity and natural gas, the heating and cooling sector needs a sustainable transformation, while reducing the dependence on imported sources supported by innovative approaches. In this workshop, experts will discuss the possibilities and current realizations of creating synergies in the further development of these local infrastructures, in support of the EU's energy and climate agenda.

#### **Creating flexibility in the energy value chain - Keeping the lights on?**

With rising shares of renewable energy and the emergence of new technologies, the debates about the need for and the potential of supply-side and demand-side flexibility and related services have intensively started. In this workshop, experts from DSOs, suppliers, local generators and demand-side service providers will discuss about the potentials, roles and responsibilities of each actor. They will explore the regulatory changes needed to make flexibility customer-friendly and compatible with system security.