

ANNUAL CONGRESS 2019

LOCAL ENERGY TRANSITION MISSION POSSIBLE !

20 November 2019, 9:30-18:00
Stanhope Hotel, Brussels



9:00 Registration & coffee

9:30 – 10:30 High level opening : EU Policy and the 2050 challenge
Decentralize, digitalize, decarbonize

The Clean Energy Package is paving the way for an ambitious trajectory towards reaching the 2050 targets. But will it be sufficient to realize full decarbonization by 2050, if this is the new official goal ? The energy transition needs additional incentives for making it real, including at local level, through sectoral integration and maximizing the potential of local resources, close to citizens and customers. Also, a roadmap with intermediate steps in 2030 and 2040 will be needed to create visibility for investors. In respect for future generations, the ambitions must be high to ensure that the mission becomes possible.

Moderator: Siobhan Hall, Senior Editor, EU Energy Policy at S&P Global Platts

10:30-11:00 European energy transition 2030
The big picture

Keynote speaker: Patrick Graichen, Director, Agora Energiewende

Agora Energiewende is a top-level think-tank and policy laboratory with an integrated vision on strategies and solutions, based on scientifically based and politically feasible approaches, for ensuring the success of the energy transition.

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-12:15 From natural gas to renewable and decarbonized gases
Realizing the potential

Natural gas is currently a major source for heating and for centralized and decentralized electricity generation, with an increasing role in transport. On the road to full decarbonization, gases will continue to play a key role: in order to gradually decrease CO₂ emissions (amongst others by switching from coal and fuel to natural gas) and as an essential contributor to seasonal energy storage.

Existing gas transport and distribution infrastructure are readily available for storage and transmission of large quantities of energy, as well as for the connection of decentralized renewable gas sources. Producers, infrastructure providers and the appliances industry will need to incorporate the potential of renewable and decarbonized gases in fast track to reach 2050 targets.



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12:15-13:00 **The digital energy (r)evolution - Opportunities and challenges for the industry and stakeholders**

Intelligent grids, digital and communicating meters, data platforms, Internet of Things, energy communities, data access and security, consumer consent. Digitalization will create opportunities for higher efficiency in every part of the value chain, including for consumers. This equally brings along challenges for data privacy and cybersecurity in increasingly interconnected energy systems. New actors will enter the market and offer or share innovative energy services, implying a need for clarity on roles, rights and obligations. With DSOs as market facilitators, by making data available in a neutral and secure way.

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 **Make sectoral integration happen - locally** **Linking electricity with gas, heat and transport**

Sectoral integration and sector coupling are rightly considered as essential elements in any strategy to respect the Paris Agreement. They contribute to the necessary flexibility in an energy system with a steeply rising share of variable renewable energy sources. An integrated approach – as well within the energy sector as between energy and other sectors - offers an effective and cost-efficient answer to maximize the potential of local renewable resources, close to the customer. Local and integrated energy companies demonstrate that this potential can be realized – if the right incentives are in place.

15:30 – 16:15 Coffee

16:15-17:30 **Sustainable financing** **Transforming energy infrastructures**

New European legislation is in preparation to orient investors towards sustainable energy projects, through the establishment of sustainability criteria. The choice of these criteria will directly and indirectly affect the financing costs of any future project in the European energy sector. Technology neutrality will have to be ensured to allow different technologies and different energy vectors to continue to develop their different degrees of contribution to the required CO₂ reduction.

17:30 **Conclusions**

