



Newsletter sent to local energy companies

The CEDEC would like to wish you a Happy New Year.

In 2011, the CEDEC will be hosting a major event which will be held in Brussels on 12th and 13th April. The event, which takes place during EU Sustainable Energy Week (cf. www.eusew.eu), will be attended by many well-known figures both from Belgium and from all over Europe. The first six months of 2011 will see the Hungarian Presidency and the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) will be getting down to business. The Commission will also be presenting its new action plan for energy efficiency. The CEDEC will be keeping a very close eye on European initiatives in its members' interests.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

CEDEC CONGRESS – 12th and 13th APRIL 2011 – Hôtel Renaissance in Brussels
"Prospects for action by local and regional companies as part of the European Union's energy strategy"

HUNGARIAN PRESIDENCY

Hungary will be holding the rotating presidency of the Council of Ministers during the first six months of 2011. Energy is one of the key questions on which Hungary wishes to focus, as it wants the energy ministers to adopt the joint conclusions relating to two important strategic documents, i.e. the "Energy 2020" strategy and the new action plan for energy efficiency, which the Commission will be presenting in early March 2011.

http://www.kulugyminiszterium.hu/kum/en/bal/european_union/eu_pres_2011/

ENERGY COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON 4TH FEBRUARY 2011

The Hungarian Presidency is holding the very first special European Energy Summit on 4th February. At this summit European leaders are expected to set out political guidelines for the energy ministers and to take decisions on energy policy components which require additional measures. The European Commission's communications on EU energy strategy for 2011-2020 and the priorities in terms of infrastructures will be the major subjects discussed at this meeting.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT – ITRE COMMITTEE: ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN

Bendt Bendtsen's report, which was adopted on 15th December 2010, gives details of the European Parliament's position with a view to the European Commission's communication on a new version of the energy efficiency action plan, promised for spring 2011.

Amongst other things, MPs ruled on a binding energy efficiency target.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2010-0485+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

FLORENCE FORUM – ELECTRICITY

The Florence Forum took place on 13th and 14th December. During this Forum, the various participants, including the CEDEC, contributed to deciding upon the areas in which work will be carried out over the next few months, in order to help to bring about a single electricity market. The work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group (AHAG) will continue under the direction of the ACER which will be setting up a monitoring group made up of all the stakeholders in early 2011. The Forum also dealt with the work on the pilot guidelines for connection to the network, which provide a good basis for launching network codes and for the framework for minimum standards to which network users must adhere.

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/gas_electricity/forum_electricity_florence_en.htm

LONDON FORUM – CITIZENS' ENERGY FORUM – EXPECTED INITIATIVES

The CEDEC takes part in the Citizens' Energy Forum. The main subjects discussed on 21st and 22nd October 2010 included:

- Smart meters: the Forum was told about the work which has been carried out by the task force for the implementation of smart grids, in which the CEDEC plays an active part. The Forum asked ERGEG to publish an opinion on the roles of the DSOs and other participants regarding the services to be

developed for the purposes of smart meters. The DSOs stressed that the Member States and regulators need to provide a realistic “cost/benefit” analysis before deciding to roll out smart meters.

- The handling of consumer complaints: ERGEG set out the guidelines for handling consumers’ complaints. However, the Forum wants the complaints centres to be independent of the companies in question.
- Billing: the Forum offered a reminder that companies must draw up their bills in such a way that they are readable, precise and in line with ERGEG good practices.

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/gas_electricity/forum_citizen_energy_en.htm

MADRID FORUM – GAS

The Madrid Forum took place on 27th and 28th September 2010. During this Forum, the various different participants - including the CEDEC - discussed matters including the transposition and implementation of the 3rd Energy packet, the ENTSO-G 10-year gas network development plan and the final guidelines on the network codes, presented by ERGEG and ENTSO-G.

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/gas_electricity/forum_gas_madrid_en.htm

ENERGY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3RD DECEMBER 2010

The European Union energy ministers met in Brussels on 3rd December and offered broad support to the new joint energy strategy covering the period up to 2020. They acknowledged the need to step up efforts to improve energy efficiency and the importance of strengthening energy capacity infrastructures and networks. There were wider-ranging opinions on the question of mechanisms in support of renewable energies, and the subject will be back on the agenda at the European Council meeting to be held specifically to discuss energy on 4th February 2011.

[HTTP://WWW.CONSILIUM.EUROPA.EU/UEDOCS/CMS_DATA/DOCS/PRESSDATA/FR/TRANS/118476.PDF](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/fr/trans/118476.pdf)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

COMMUNICATIONS

- “Energy 2020 – Strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy”

communication, published on 10th November 2010.

The Commission will be setting out a number of specific legislative initiatives and proposals over the next eighteen months.

This new strategy sets out five priorities:

- o Energy savings: the measures include the introduction of innovative technologies such as smart meters;
- o an integrated Pan-European energy market with infrastructures;
- o Active consumers for secure, affordable, guaranteed energy: these are measures relating to the comparing of prices, changing supplier and the clarity and transparency of bills;
- o Ensuring that Europe branches out at the cutting edge of technologies and innovation, in other words technologies for smart grids and electricity storage, research on second generation biofuels and the “smart cities” partnership for promoting energy savings;
- o Reinforcing the external dimension of the European energy market.

The communication also sets out the programme of debates which will take place at the meeting of the Energy Council to be held on 4th February.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0639:FIN:EN:PDF>

- Communication on “energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond – A blueprint for an integrated European energy network”, published on 17th November 2010. In order to be able to meet the binding targets set by the European Union in its energy policy for Europe, our energy infrastructures need to be totally modernised. This means introducing supply corridors throughout Europe, transforming our networks into smart grids and guaranteeing the sourcing of gas supplies whenever and wherever necessary. In its communication, the European Commission sets out an approach in order to obtain the infrastructures we need, by identifying key projects which are of European interest and ensuring that the projects are built with the same commitment in all of the Member States involved.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0677:FIN:EN:PDF>

"ROADMAP 2050" PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The European Commission will be publishing an "Energy Roadmap 2050" in the second six months of the year, and it will set out various ways of achieving the targets set for the sector. In order to do this, it is inviting all of the stakeholders to answer a questionnaire, by 7th March.

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/strategies/consultations/20110307_roadmap_2050_en.htm

CEDEC – CONGRESS 12TH-13TH APRIL 2011

On 12th and 13th April 2011, the CEDEC is organising an event based around "the prospects for initiatives by local and regional companies as part of the European Union's energy strategy".

The aim is also to set out initiatives and projects by local energy companies before the European authorities.

The European Commission, the European Parliament, the regulators and obviously the local energy companies which are CEDEC members will all be represented there.

WWW.CEDEC.COM

CEDEC – RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- CEDEC press article in Parliament Magazine – issue dated 22nd January 2011.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- CEER-ERGEG: information sheet on "the regional initiatives – a major step towards integrating Europe's national energy markets" (20/12/2010);
- ERGEG: "Status Review of Liberalisation and Implementation of the Energy Regulatory Framework and 28 individual national reports" (10/12/2010);
- CEER: 2011 work programme (10/12/2010);
- ERGEG: Pilot Framework Guideline On Electricity Grid Connection (10/12/2010);
- ERGEG: opinion on "ENTSO-E's pilot Ten Year Development Plan" (10/12/2010);
- ERGEG: revision of the pilot guidelines on the "gas capacity allocation mechanism" (10/12/2010);
- ERGEG: Final opinion on "Comitology Guidelines on Fundamental Electricity Data Transparency" (9/12/2010);

- ERGEG: opinion on "Comitology Guidelines on Fundamental Electricity Data Transparency" (7/12/2010);
- Cap Gemini: European Energy Markets Observatory (November 2010);
- European Commission: The functioning of retail electricity markets for consumers in the European Union (November 2010).

DIARY

- 26th January: hearing at the European Parliament
- 4th February: Special meeting of the European Council to discuss energy matters
- 28th February: Energy Council meeting
- 25th March: Spring European Council meeting
- 11th April: hearing at the European Parliament
- 12th & 13th April: CEDEC Congress
- 2nd & 3rd May: Informal Council meeting on energy in Budapest
- 10th June: Energy Council meeting