

29 July 2014

Dear Member of Parliament,
Dear Member of EUFORES,
Dear energy expert,



Following the May elections of the European Parliament, EUFORES is in the process of re-establishing its core group of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) who will continue to set Europe on the path towards competitiveness, growth and job creation based on a sustainable energy system - founded on renewables and energy efficiency. Just as with the 2009 elections, the European Parliament saw half of its MEPs leave after the elections. Nevertheless, new forward-looking MEPs joined the European Parliament and EUFORES will be happy to work with them throughout the next legislative period.

The next five years will be crucial for setting the direction and shape of EU energy policy. Even though this may sound like a cliché, it is not. Having the Ukraine-Russia conflict in mind and the related energy insecurity threat felt by the Baltic and Central-Eastern European countries, the current geopolitical context cannot be ignored in the ongoing debates on the 2030 Framework, EU Energy Security Strategy and upcoming reviews of several related directives. Will the EU top representatives and 28 Heads of State use this window of opportunity at their October Council meeting?

EU leaders will meet on 23 and 24 October 2014 at the European Council summit in order to discuss these issues. A decision on both the 2030 Framework on Energy and Climate Policies and the EU Energy Security Strategy will be taken. Given the fact that around 400 billion Euro were spent on importing energy fuels from outside the EU in 2013, many say that there should not be much to discuss. The current tensions between Russia and the Ukraine make several EU Member States nervous when thinking about the winter of 2014-2015. With Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Slovakia importing their entire gas imports from Russia, the picture gets more complex and worrying.

The EU Energy Security Strategy, which was prepared by the European Commission on the request of the Council and published on the 28th of May 2014, suggests a number of short-term and medium term measures. However, more is needed: A true vision, a solid direction and brave political leadership.

But energy security will not be the only challenge to tackle: May and June 2014 have been the hottest ever since climate data had been recorded. Solid climate change prevention policies will remain an urgent issue - and the international climate summit in Paris 2015 gives

another deadline to which the European Union has to deliver. There is no excuse anymore. And EUFORES will work intensely on it.

EUFORES will therefore initiate more debates on these crucial topics at its upcoming events. The 14th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting, which will take place on 10 and 11 October in the Parliament of Portugal in Lisbon, will be an important opportunity to do so. A strong engagement of new MEPs in this IPM is expected.

EUFORES will address energy security, the 2030 Framework, the upcoming review of the Energy Labelling Directive and the rise of the macro-regional power markets at its events planned for the autumn/winter of 2014.

In addition to this, EUFORES will continue to hold breakfast roundtables for Members of the European Parliament every Wednesday during the plenary session in Strasbourg. Like in the last years, Members of the European Parliament are invited to meet and discuss with EU Commissioners and policy experts.

We hope to see many of you at our events in Brussels and other capitals across the EU and work jointly with you on the energy transition.

Kind regards,

Jan Geiss

Secretary General EUFORES

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EUFORES Upcoming events

EUFORES Parliamentary Dinner Debate

“Renewables and Energy Efficiency: Their contribution to Energy Security”

When: 9 September 2014, 18:00 – 21:00

Where: Member Salon, European Parliament, Brussels

Background information: EUFORES is organising a big parliamentary dinner debate in the European Parliament as the EUFORES kick-off event of the new European Parliament. The event will address the issue of energy security and how the renewables and energy efficiency constitute part of the answer to the current challenges.

Latvian Presidency Briefing on Renewable Energy Sources

When: 1 October 2014, 8:00-9:00

Where: European Parliament, Brussels

Background information: This breakfast roundtable, a part of our project Keep on Track!, is an intense briefing with the incoming Latvian presidency in the Council. The focal point of the discussion will be upcoming issues on the Council agenda with regard to renewable energy policies. More specifically, the 2030 targets and the fulfilment of the interim goals of the RES Directive will be in the spotlight of the briefing.

14th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Renewables and Energy Efficiency

When: 10-11 October 2014

Where: Lisbon, Portugal

Background information: The annual Inter-Parliamentary Meeting is a high-level conference for Members of Parliaments from all over Europe with selected experts from the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency. The conference is the key platform for related discussions among key policy and decision makers within the EU. The conference will primarily focus on the energy security question, interconnectors, the Iberian Peninsula, grid infrastructure development, 2030 framework for climate and energy, the trajectories of the RES targets in 2020 and the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive. This year IPM is organised in cooperation with the Portuguese Parliament.

EUFORES Parliamentary Dinner Debate – “Can labels and ecodesign do the job? Energy consumption under surveillance”

When: 18 November 2014, 18:00 – 21:00

Where: Member Salon, European Parliament, Brussels

Background information: The European Commission plans to review the Energy Labelling Directive and ecodesign aspects by the end of 2014. It wants to come out with a report and any proposal early 2015. With the ecodesign directive addressing the supply side and the energy labeling directive addressing the demand side, the market improvement is expected. The current review focuses especially on the effectiveness of the Energy Labelling Directive whereas ecodesign aspects are also considered. Main topics of the review study will, among others, include appropriateness of the energy label, rulemaking procedures, fulfillment of objectives and scope expansion.

EUFORES Parliamentary Workshop

“Rethinking energy interconnections: Macro-regional power markets on the rise”

When: 10 December 2014, 9:00 – 12:00

Where: European Parliament, Brussels

Background information: The macro-regional concept in power markets could deliver solutions to several issues – network infrastructure development, interconnecting EU Member States, integrating renewables in the market, identifying and implementing action plans jointly by a group of Member States. Europe is a very diverse continent with different potentials when it comes to renewable energy sources. Regions usually share their main features and challenges and could be more effective in addressing them if they acted together. For example, the region around the North Seas has a tremendous potential in offshore wind. Governments of the 10 North Seas countries have already started a North Seas Countries Offshore Grid Initiative. Offshore grid design and development, offshore wind connections and overall market design which goes beyond the macro-region have to be discussed thoughtfully.

EUFORES Breakfast Roundtables in Strasbourg

When: every Wednesday during the plenary sessions in Strasbourg

Where: European Parliament, Strasbourg

EUFORES News

The **2014 EU Tracking Roadmap, Policy Recommendations and Analysis of Deviations and Barriers Report**, published under the EUFORES coordinated project Keep on Track!, are available NOW on the website: www.keepontrack.eu.

- The **EU Tracking Roadmap** is an annual publication which monitors the progress of renewable energy sources (RES) towards the 2020 target both at EU and Member State levels.
- The **Policy Recommendations** report offers detailed recommendations at EU and at Member State levels on how to keep on track with the indicative trajectory defined by the RES Directive.
- The **Analysis of Deviations and Barriers Report** tracks, on the one hand, Member States' past progress in RES development by comparing actual RES deployment with planned deployment; on the other hand, it highlights the current administrative, financial and technical barriers which interfere with the further development of RES in Member States.

Do you have questions on Support Schemes and Retroactive Changes, State Aid rules, (the implementation of) the RES Directive? Ask and have a look at the information sheets on the **Virtual Legal Helpdesk**.

The Virtual Legal Helpdesk has been set up under the Keep on Track! project to assist - Free of Charge - local, regional, national and European policy makers as well as national renewable energy associations with matters concerning the implementation of the RES Directive into national law. Keep on Track! aims at developing mechanisms to help Member States “keep on track” in reaching their 2020 objectives outlined in the RES Directive. One such mechanism is the Virtual Legal Helpdesk which will help to ensure a stable and solid legislative

framework for the development of renewable energy in the EU Member States.



National parliamentary workshops

EUFORES is currently planning several parliamentary workshops for national stakeholders on the RES Directive, its implementation, good practices and recommendations how to meet the 2020 objectives. Those workshops will be held in the national parliaments of several EU Member States in 2014 and 2015. The workshops are part of the Keep on track! project.

Past events

Italian Presidency Briefing on Renewable Energy Sources

18 February 2014, European Parliament, Brussels

EUFORES organised this breakfast roundtable with the Transport, Telecom and Energy Coordinator of the Italian Permanent Representation to the EU, Marco Landolfi. Mr. Landolfi discussed the priorities of the Italian presidency concerning renewable energy and more specifically on the further implementation of the RES directive, the fulfillment of the interim goals and the 2030 framework. The breakfast roundtable was part of the Keep on Track! project.

Workshop in the Bulgarian Parliament

7 April 2014, Radisson Blue, Sofia

Under the Keep on Track! project, a workshop in cooperation with Bulgarian MEP, Antonia Parvanova, was organized on the 7th of April 2014. The main objective was to trigger a fruitful discussion among all stakeholders involved, Members of Parliament, government officials and various national and external experts. The status of the Bulgarian renewables trajectory, energy mix and perspectives for development of renewable energy market were under discussion.

Workshop in the Estonian Parliament

13 May 2014, Estonian Parliament, Tallinn

EUFORES held a parliamentary workshop in the Estonian Parliament in the cooperation with Economic Affairs and Environment Committee. The aim of the workshop was to discuss the renewable energy situation in Estonia with Members of Parliament, government officials and various national and external experts. This workshop was organised in the framework of the Keep on Track! project, which aims to ensure Member States keep in track with their 20% renewable energy targets by 2020. It was noted that Estonia is currently on track with its 2020 trajectory, having already reached its 2020 objective. However, it is still necessary to invest further as the RES transport sector is lagging behind.

Policy Overview

In view of the Ukraine-Russia relationship and potential impacts on the EU, the Council asked the European Commission to prepare a plan on reduction of the EU energy dependence. On 28 May 2014, the European Commission published an EU Energy Security Strategy based on an in-depth study of the European energy security. Among short-term measures, the Eu-

rope-an Commission proposes to launch energy security stress tests in order to check how the EU energy system can cope with a distortion in the energy supply. The Commission also proposes actions in five key areas for the medium to long-term period. First, energy efficiency, especially reduction in energy consumption in buildings and industry, should be increased. Second, more energy should be produced in the EU which suggests more deployment of renewable energy sources. There should also be more diversification of suppliers and transport routes. Third, completion of the internal market and building infrastructure links so that the EU is able to respond to energy supply distortions and redirect the energy flow where needed. Fourth, the Commission suggests that the EU speaks with one voice in external energy policy. Lastly, emergency and solidarity mechanisms should be strengthened including development of reverse flows, use of existing storage facilities or conducting risk assessments. The Council will discuss the proposed EU Energy Security Strategy at its meeting on 26-27 June 2014.

The communication “A policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030” published in January 2014 by the Commission will be discussed in the Council meeting on 23-24 October 2014. Here, the negotiations continue on the suggested 2030 targets. This 2030 framework consists of a set of key points. First, a binding greenhouse gas reduction target of 40% below the 1990 level to be met through domestic measures. Second, an EU-wide binding target of at least 27% which should be achieved by the new governance system based on national energy plans. Third, energy efficiency will be considered in a review of the Energy Efficiency Directive which is planned for this year. Fourth, a market stability reserve is to be established at the beginning of the next ETS trading period in 2021. Fifth, a set of key indicators proposed by the Commission will assess progress over time and provide a factual base for potential policy response. Sixth, the Commission proposes a new governance framework based on national plans for competitive, secure and sustainable energy which will be prepared by the Member States under a common approach.

What is EUFORES?

EUFORES is a European cross-party parliamentary network with Members from all major political groups in the European Parliament as well as in the national EU Member States Parliaments. It is non-profit organization founded in 1995 by Members of Parliament and other key actors.

Its core objective is to promote renewable energy sources and energy efficiency and to facilitate discussion between the parliamentarians, experts, relevant decision makers and stakeholders. It organizes numerous events for parliamentarians each year, most of which take place in the European Parliament. The most important event is an annual Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency which is a meeting of parliamentarians from 28 EU Member States. This conference takes place in a different national parliament on a rotational basis.