

As of: March 1, 2013

Symposium

## **Energiewende – Think European!**

### **Date and location**

Tuesday, April 9, 2013, 1:30 pm - 6:10 pm

Wednesday, April 10, 2013, 8:30 am – 3:15 pm

Beletage of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Schumannstraße 8, 10117 Berlin, Germany

### **Conference languages are German and English**

Simultaneous interpreting will mostly be provided.

### **Live stream**

A live stream of the conference will be available on our website: <http://www.boell.de/stream>

### **Project management and information**

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### **Background**

Germany resolved to go down the path of its energy transition – the *Energiewende* – largely without consulting its European neighbors. Up to now, conceptual debates and practical steps taken have almost exclusively been limited to the national context. Yet, the *Energiewende* cannot be successful without Europe. After all, greater integration in European power supply will make renewable electricity more reliable and less expensive. In the process, Germany can assume the role of a pioneer in Europe by showing other member states what the path to a more climate-friendly, future-proof power supply looks like.

A transnational power grid makes it easier and much less expensive to integrate intermittent renewables. For instance, excess renewable power can be taken up by inexpensive storage facilities in the Alps and Scandinavia. In addition, European power trading will ensure that renewable electricity is mainly produced where it is the least expensive.

Unfortunately, there are few signs of a European *Energiewende* at present.

Germany's neighbors to the east have threatened to protect their grids against variable renewable power from Germany to ensure their grid stability – and the profitability of their electricity from fossil fuel. The European debt and economic crisis has reduced support for renewables and slowed down growth rates in southern Europe. At the same time, a number of member states continue to bank on coal and nuclear power. Grid expansion is progressing slowly, as is the European power market.

Furthermore, there is no consensus among member states on how renewables policies should look after 2020. Pioneering countries, such as Sweden and Denmark, have ambitious targets, while France and the UK remain skeptical and are calling for a technology-blind climate policy without binding targets for renewables and efficiency.

The conference aims to give speakers from across Europe a chance to talk about the opportunities in and obstacles towards an *Energiewende* in Europe.

**DRAFT AGENDA****Day 1, Tuesday, April 9, 2013****1:30 pm      Registration****2:00 pm      Opening Remarks**  
**Ralf Fücks**, President, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin**2:10 pm      Presentation**  
**Status quo and outlook of German Energiewende**

- Overview/discussions/presentation of main questions
- Where is the German Energiewende now and what does it have to do with Europe?

**Rainer Baake**, Director, Agora Energiewende, Berlin**2:30 pm      Panel Discussion**  
**How Germany's European neighbors see the Energiewende**

The "Energiewende resolutions" of 2011 were adopted without consulting our European neighbors about the economic, political, and technical consequences. Yet, the growth of renewables and the accelerated phaseout of nuclear power affects grid stability, prices, and power flows in neighboring countries. Not surprisingly, the German Energiewende has not only met with great interest, but also led to confusion and rejection. The following questions are to be discussed with representatives from Germany's European neighbors:

- How do its European neighbors see and discuss the Energiewende?
- What are the physical and economic effects of varying amounts of renewable power from Germany?
- What interests do our neighbors have in common, and where did they diverge?

**Rainer Baake**, Director, Agora Energiewende, Berlin**Cécile Maisonnette**, Director, Center for Energy, Institut Français des Relations Internationales (Ifri), Paris**Tomasz Tomczykiewicz\***, State Secretary at the Polish Ministry of Economy, Warsaw**Bas Eickhout\***, Vice-chair, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, European Parliament, BrusselsChair: **Kristina Steenbock**, Executive Director, Smart Energy for Europe Platform (SEFEP), Berlin**4:15 pm      Coffee break****4:45 pm      Country Tables**  
**A talk with our neighbors:**

At Country Tables, participants will be able to talk directly with country representatives about the following topics to deepen the discussion of the topics from the opening panel.

- What effects does the German Energiewende have on their power supply (power prices, power imports, exports, grid stability)
- How is the German Energiewende discussed by the general public?
- What energy path should be taken, and what are the chances for an Energiewende without coal, shale gas, and nuclear?
- What can be done to get our European neighbors on board for an Energiewende?

*In English or German only, no translation.*

**Country Table Czech Republic** *English*

**Vojtěch Kotecký**

Program Director, Hnutí DUHA (Friends of the Earth Czech Republic), Prague

**Country Table Denmark** *English*

**N.N.**

CONCITO, Copenhagen

**Country Table France** *English*

**N.N.**

**Country Table The Netherlands** *English*

**Pieter Boot\***

Head of Department, Department of Climate, Air and Energy, PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, The Hague

**Country Table Austria** *German*

**Christiane Brunner**

Member of the Austrian parliament, Spokesperson for Environmental, Energy and Animal welfare issues, Green Party, Vienna

**Country Table Poland** *English*

**Andrzej Kassenberg**

Head, Institute for Sustainable Development, Warsaw

**Country Table Switzerland** *English*

**Rolf Wüstenhagen**

Good Energies Professor for Management of Renewable Energies and Director, Institute for Economy and the Environment, University of St. Gallen

**5:45 pm**      **Presentation of Results on the Green Stairs** *English*

**6:10 pm**      **Reception with Finger food and Wine**

**8:00 pm**      **End of Day 1**

## **Day 2, Wednesday, April 10, 2013**

**8:30 am**      **Registration**

**9:00 am**      **Welcome and Summary of Day 1**  
**N.N.**

**9:10 am****Keynote****EU's Policies for Renewables**

The further development of the EU's policies for renewables after the current Directive 2009/28/EC expires in 2020 is a crucial issue for European energy policy over the next few years. The main topics here are targets for the phase after 2020, the future of policy incentives, grid expansion, and the market integration of renewables.

- What path does the Commission want to go down, what do the member states think about these ideas, and what do the European Greens want?
- How does the European debt crisis affect the upcoming revamping of the European power plant fleet to make it more climate-friendly?

**Michael Hager\***, Head of Cabinet, Cabinet of Commissioner for Energy Günther Oettinger, European Commission, Brussels (As from March 1st, 2013)

**9:20 am****Debate****EU's Policies for Renewables**

**Rebecca Harms**, Co-Chair, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, European Parliament, Brussels

**Michael Hager\***, Head of Cabinet, Cabinet of Commissioner for Energy Günther Oettinger, European Commission, Brussels (As from March 1st, 2013)

Chair: **Camilla Bausch**, Senior Management; Senior Fellow, Ecologic Institute, Berlin

**10:15 am****Coffee break****10:30 am****Parallel Workshops****1. Capacity Mechanisms in Europe**

Across Europe, investors are increasingly hesitant to address the renewal of the conventional power plant fleet because they feel that renewables endanger their profitability. Because wind power and solar power have a priority on the grid, less power from other sources can be sold on windy, sunny days. In addition, wholesale power prices are based on marginal costs, which are zero for solar and wind power – resulting in generally lower prices on exchanges. Investments in flexible power plants then do not pay for themselves as much because they run for fewer hours at lower prices.

Some member states therefore already support the availability of generating capacity or are planning to do so. In its communiqué on the common energy market of November 2012, the Commission expressed its skepticism about this trend. It fears that price signals across the EU will be distorted and that solutions will specify that power must come from fossil fuels to the detriment of energy efficiency and demand response. The workshop will talk about whether Europe needs capacity mechanisms to secure its power supply and how they could be brought in line with the European common market.

**Klaus-Dieter Borchardt**, Director, Directorate Internal Energy Market, European Commission, Brussels

**Felix Matthes**, Research Coordinator Energy- and Climate policy, Institute for Applied Ecology, Berlin

Chair: **Christina Elberg**, Research Associate, Institute of Energy Economics, University of Cologne

## **2. What should Europe's Future Energy Mix look like?**

Over the next few years, Europe will make decisions that affect its energy supply over the next few decades. Europe needs to renew its power plant fleet, but member states do not agree on how to do so. While they have agreed to joint European climate targets, each member state still determines its own national energy mix. Countries such as Germany, Denmark, and Austria are talking about getting all of their electricity from renewables, while countries like the Czech Republic, Poland, and France see nuclear as an important future source of power – and are planning new plants. Likewise, a lot of countries plan to build new coal plants because coal is considered a safe, inexpensive source of energy. Shale gas will also increasingly play a role. It does not in Europe at the moment, but countries such as the UK and Poland are banking on this "new" source of energy.

- How will the different sources of electricity and energy policy strategies interact in a common power market?
- How will these national strategies impact the international marketing grid design and European power trading?
- Where does Europe need to coordinate its actions to ensure a climate-friendly, safe, affordable energy supply?

**Oliver Krischer**, Member of German Bundestag, Spokesperson for Energy and Resource Efficiency, Parliamentary Group, Alliance 90/The Greens, Berlin

**Raffaele Piria**, Programme Director, Smart Energy for Europe Platform (SEFEP), Berlin

Chair: **Silvia Brugger**, Director Climate and Energy Programme, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Brussels

## **3. Harmonizing Policies?**

Last year, Oettinger announced that a European policy for renewables would be launched. The goal is to ensure that installations go up wherever power can be generated at the lowest cost in Europe – rather than where policy support is the greatest. In light of tremendous resistance from the renewables sector, environmental organizations, and the Greens, the Commission clarified its position in a communiqué of June 2012, explaining that it merely wants to harmonize policies. Opponents of the idea are concerned that a European policy would generally reduce support across Europe and lead to the launch of a quota system, which is considered ineffective.

- How can policies be harmonized to promote efficient renewables growth in Europe based on local conditions, not on local policies, without slowing down the growth of renewables?

**Josche Muth**, Secretary General, European Renewable Energy Council (EREC), Brussels

**Frederic Thoma**, EU Energy Policy Adviser, Greenpeace, Brussels

Chair: **Susanne Langsdorf\***, Researcher, Ecologic Institut, Berlin

## **4. Renewables in Crisis**

The economic and financial crisis has led a lot of member states to drastically cut support for renewables. For instance, Spain and Portugal recently did an about-face in their support for renewables. The result was plummeting investments in solar energy, with disastrous consequences for the local economy, jobs, and the decarbonization of local power supply. To make things worse, national policies for investors have become

much less reliable because of the economic crisis, thereby endangering the planned revamping of Europe's power plant fleet.

- How is the current debt crisis impacting the growth of renewables?
- How can specific countries be supported in promoting renewables?

**Hans-Josef Fell**, Member of the German Bundestag, Energy and Technology Spokesperson, Alliance 90/The Greens, Berlin

**David Pérez**, Managing Partner, Eclareon, Madrid and Milan

Chair: **Ferdi de Ville**, Researcher, Centre for EU Studies, Ghent University

**12:00**                      **Lunch break**

**1:00 pm**                      **Conclusions and Outlook**  
**100 Percent Renewables in Europe: Are We Well on our Way?**  
*Expert Roundtable/Fishbowl*

- What will Europe's future energy supply probably look like?
- What are the trends and problems?
- What political and civil-society strategies should we implement to get all of Europe to replace coal and nuclear power with renewables?
- There is likely to be no consensus about a European Energiewende in the foreseeable future, so how do we proceed?

**Martin Bursík**, Former Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic, Chair, Chamber of Renewable Energy Resources, Prague

**Franzjosef Schafhausen\***, Deputy Director General, Directorate Energiewende, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Berlin

**Caroline Lucas\***, Member of Parliament, House of Commons, Green Party of England and Wales, London

**Paul Wilczek\***, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advisor - Grids and Internal Market, European Wind Energy Association (EWEA), Brussels

Chair: **Margarete Wohlan\***, Journalist and author, Berlin

**3:00 pm**                      **Final Remarks**

**3:15 pm**                      **End of Conference**

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**\*To be confirmed**