

In cooperation with the European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic,
the analytical centre Glopolis cordially invites you to the upcoming conference focusing on the topic:

ENERGY UNION

OPPORTUNITY OR THREAT FOR THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND CENTRAL EUROPE?

Date: 10. 6. 2015, from 10:00 till 16:00

Venue: Era svět, Jungmannovo náměstí 767, Prague 1

How can the Czech Republic and the EU as a whole ensure reliable supply of electricity at affordable prices while respecting the climate and environmental goals? How can the energy policy help to maintain competitiveness of the European producers, particularly of the manufacturing sector?

The conference objective is to link debates on energy security with the developments on European energy markets, in view of creation of the EU Energy Union.

Kindly confirm your attendance at the latest by Monday, 8th June 2015 to: konference@glopolis.org

A Brief Overview

9.45–10.15 Registration and Refreshment

10.15–10.30 Opening: Energy Union Proposal

10:30–12:30 First panel: Implications of the interaction of EU energy policy (including the 2030 Framework) and national policies for the European energy market/security of supply – what should be the role for an EU Energy Union?

12.30–13.30 Lunch

13.30–15.30 Second panel: The Czech approach to energy policy – How does the Czech Republic tackle challenges related to energy security?

15.30–16.00 Glass of wine

The Context and Detailed Programme

The Czech Republic makes its decisions on energy policy in the context of the debate within the European Union, which is currently moving towards the creation of an Energy Union. *"It's the biggest energy project since the Coal and Steel Community,"* said Maroš Šefčovič, European Commission vice-president responsible for Energy Union, when he presented the Energy Union proposal in February this year.

The Energy Union idea represents a logical response to both current international challenges and developments in the EU energy market. The conference will discuss possible paths for the integration of the EU energy market as well as various forces that may shape the future Energy Union.

The EU has already agreed its 2030 energy and climate goals. This provides a solid basis for future orientation of energy policy of individual Member States and is expected to provide – with the future Energy Union – the necessary framework and predictable environment for energy investments. Indeed, it appears that the energy policies cannot be conducted in isolation, as the policy decisions of individual Member States have important spill-over effects on others. For instance, in the Czech context, the German Energie-wende has an impact on the domestic energy sector. In addition, in the wake of the conflict in Ukraine, the issues related to the EU's energy security gain renewed prominence.

An exchange of views between the business community, civil society and the media with government/ EU officials is expected to assist in the creation of the consensus on the future energy policy of the Czech Republic, as well as on the future EU Energy Union.

Programme Of The Conference

9.45–10.15 Registration and Refreshment

10.15–10.30 Opening: Energy Union Proposal – Jan Michal, Head of European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic

10.30–12.45 First panel: Implications of the interaction of EU energy policy (including the 2030 Framework) and national policies for the European energy market/security of supply – What should be the role of an EU Energy Union?

- **Adam Janczak**, Deputy Director, EU Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland
- **Michaela Spaeth**, Head of Division for Energy and Raw Material Foreign Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Germany
- **Juris Ozoliņš**, Energy Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU
- **Václav Bartuška**, Ambassador at Large for Energy Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic, TBC
- **Katharina Umpfenbach**, Senior Fellow, Ecologic Institute

The right of Member States to choose their energy mix is set in the Lisbon Treaty. To which extent the EU's 2030 goals and (often diverging) national energy policies narrow down the policy choices for Member States? Are national energy policies able to tackle energy security, affordability and sustainability challenges all at once and in a cost-effective manner?

Dynamic development of renewables and interconnections within European electricity markets may lead to falling prices of (wholesale) electrical power and consequently to low profitability of investments in conventional resources, including gas, coal and nuclear power. At the same time, the conditions for installation of renewables (both due to climatic situation and level of public support) vary across the Member States.

What is the future of conventional power plants in Europe? What could the EU achieve through improvements in inter-connections among the grids of Member States, including the price for end-users and security of supply? What needs to be done to strengthen the domestic electricity networks (in view of rising share of renewables) and interconnections among the Member States?

Recent experiences have shown that some Member States are more vulnerable to external shocks due to their high energy import dependency (as the gas stress tests have recently proved). For that reason, the *Energy Union could mitigate security threats to the European energy market*. However, the Energy Union may take different forms.

What are the expectations of the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland or the European Commission about the Energy Union and to what degree are they compatible with market developments? How will the EU's 2030 energy and climate goals impact the EU's energy security? To what extent can we remain dependent on a dominant energy source – namely the Russian gas? What kind of Energy Union can be a step forward for both the EU and its Member States when taking into consideration their different energy mixes, energy policies and different geographical conditions for energy production?

12.30–13.30 Lunch

13.30–15.30 **Second panel:** The Czech approach to energy policy – How does the Czech Republic tackle challenges related to energy security?

- **Aleš Chmelař**, Chief EU economist, Government Office of the Czech Republic
- **Michal Šnobl**, Analyst, J&T Bank
- **Vladimír Vlk**, Advisor to the Minister of Industry and Trade
- **Petr Hanák**, Head of Structured and Syndications UniCredit Corporate & Investment Banking Czech and Slovak Republic
- **Jiří Tourek**, General Manager, Philips ČR
- **Martin Sedlák**, Director of the Alliance for Energy Independence

Security in general is a condition *sine qua non* for economic prosperity. Yet, energy security has its price. It is therefore necessary to look for solutions that will ensure reasonable level of energy security, while not jeopardising the long-term competitiveness of both EU and of the Czech Republic and/or limiting

the purchasing power of households. Is it possible to quantify ex ante the costs of ensuring energy security of the Czech Republic? How should the costs be distributed across the society, i.e. among businesses and households?

Is a competitive EU thinkable without fully integrated energy markets? How could a deeper integration of EU's energy markets contribute to lower electricity prices, hereby boosting competitiveness of the Czech economy?


What type of investments is needed and how could financial institutions contribute to financing/rolling out the investments? What investments are required for strengthening interconnections between neighbouring Member States and the Czech Republic? What are potential impediments to roll-out of such investments in the Czech Republic, in view of financial and legal constraints? What policies could support the investments into new networks?

How should the future Czech energy policy look like when also taking into account the implications for the desired design of the Energy Union? Is it politically and economically possible to resign on electricity exports and to accept (an increasing) dependency on cheaper electricity imports from the European market? Or shall the Czech Republic opt for independence in electric energy generation – but will the benefits compensate for the associated costs?

15.30–16.00 Glass of wine

Partneři konference:



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