

*Dear members, dear friends,*

*Please find below the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the AER Newsletter on Energy from mid July informing you on recent developments, AER foreseen activities and upcoming events in Europe.*

*If you have any comment or if you wish to know more about our activities in the field of energy, don't hesitate to contact us.*

*We wish you a very good reading!*

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## NEWSLETTER ON ENERGY

### **AER NEWS ON ENERGY**

- Peer Review on Energy
- Next Meeting of AER energy working group
- AER Conference on energy efficiency Montpellier (F)

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### **NEWS ON ENERGY – RECENT EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT AND TRENDS**

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- Funding energy efficiency in the EU
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- Interview: Renewables becoming EU's 'most dynamic' industries
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### **INTERESTING CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / EVENTS**

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- Biofuels Conference, 17-18 October 2007, Newark, Nottinghamshire
- Biodiesel-Expo 17-18 October 2007, Newark, Nottinghamshire
- The 3rd Annual European Energy Policy Conference 2007
- ENERGAIA International Renewable Energy Exhibition 6-7 December 2007 Montpellier

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### **PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH PROJECTS ON ENERGY**

- Commission Decision of 17 July 2007 on establishing the European High Level Group on Nuclear Safety and Waste Management

- Good governance of the petroleum sector
  - Biofuels: Farm Aid, Not Foe
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## AER NEWS ON ENERGY

### - **Peer Review on Energy**

A peer review is a 3-day visit by a multinational team of regional experts (officers and politicians) from more advanced Regions to a host region which is interested in improving its strategy in the energy sector. During this visit, the review team holds meetings with relevant stakeholders in order to ascertain the strengths and weaknesses of the host region's energy strategy. After the visit the review team prepares a report with a series of recommendations on how to improve the region's energy strategy. These recommendations are based upon the experiences that the team are able to bring with them from their own regions. The host region then considers the conclusions and prepares an action plan, setting out how it intends to implement them. If you are interested in the peer review, please contact the AER Committee 1 Secretariat.

### - **Next Meeting of AER energy working group**

The next meeting of the AER working group on energy will take place on 20 September in Kazan, Tatarstan, following the Committee 1 plenary meeting. We will inform you about the outcome of this meeting in the next newsletter on energy.

### - **AER Conference on energy efficiency, Montpellier (F)**

The AER Committee 1 is organising a Conference on energy efficiency on 7 December in Montpellier, Languedoc-Roussillon (F), in the framework of the ENERGAIA International Renewable Energy Exhibition. For further details on the exhibition please refer to the section « interesting conferences ». At the end of the Conference, a new official signing ceremony will be held, for the Regions having joined the AER-FEDARENE energy declaration this year. You are all welcome to attend this Conference, for which a draft programme is now available under:

<http://www.a-e-r.org/events/regional-policies-committee/2007/energaia.html>

If your Region is interested in signing the Declaration, please go to:

<http://www.a-e-r.org/main-issues/environment-sustainable-energy.html>

## NEWS ON ENERGY – RECENT EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT AND TRENDS

### - **Outcome of the International Conference on Biofuels 2007, 5-6 July 2007, Brussels**

The aim of the conference was to launch discussion on how to develop an international approach to bio-fuels to reap their potential benefits, while ensuring sustainable development, and avoiding the creation of new risks. The conference addressed four key issues:

1. Development of international trade in biofuels,
2. Environment and bio-fuels,
3. Bio-fuels and developing countries,
4. Current and future research prospects.

[http://ec.europa.eu/external\\_relations/energy/biofuels/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/energy/biofuels/index.htm)

### - **Outcome of the Trans-Sahara Gas Pipeline conference: future possibilities for diversification of EU energy supply, 6 July 2007**

European Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs participated as a keynote speaker at a conference on the Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline project which could supply gas from Nigeria to

Europe through Niger and Algeria. In his speech, Commissioner Piebalgs emphasized the importance of energy cooperation through the existing Euromed framework and the forthcoming EU-Africa Energy Partnership and underlined that the diversification of suppliers and routes is a key part of the EU's strategy for the security of energy supply.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1037&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**- Funding energy efficiency in the EU, 10 July 2007**

EurActiv examines the different ways in which energy efficiency improvements are funded in Europe, whereby EU funds are only a small part of a large equation that includes market-based instruments, bank financing and private sector initiatives.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/funding-energy-efficiency-eu/article-165378>

**- Oil experts predict 'supply crunch' in five years, 10 July 2007**

World oil supplies are likely to fall faster than expected, amid booming consumption in China and the Middle East and shrinking production capacity, resulting in further price hikes that could put a dent in the global economy, the International Energy Agency has warned.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/oil-experts-predict-supply-crunch-years/article-165370>

**- Industry Committee endorses EU coordinators for key energy projects, 17 July 2007**

The European Parliament's Industry, Research and Energy Committee approved the nomination of four project coordinators in the field of energy: The coordinators, nominated by the European Commission, will be responsible for monitoring several priority energy infrastructure projects - this in order to ensure their timely and successful realisation.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1106&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**- European Commission takes further steps to improve nuclear safety through dialogue and transparency, 17 July 2007**

The European Commission decided to establish a High Level Group on Nuclear Safety and Waste Management. The Group will develop a common understanding and reinforce common approaches in the safety of nuclear installations. The high level of representation expected from countries that operate or possess nuclear installations as well as countries that have chosen not to use this form of energy, should facilitate Europe-wide cooperation and increase confidence in the levels of safety in European nuclear facilities.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1107&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**- One million Irish homes poorly insulated says renewable energy skills, 18 July 2007**

Almost a million Irish homes built before 1997 are poorly insulated and energy inefficient, according to the country's leading renewable energy association.

<http://www.prlog.org/10024486-one-million-irish-homes-poorly-insulated-says-renewable-energy-skills.html>

**- EU steps up pressure on France to liberalise energy market, 30 July 2007**

The Commission announced the opening of antitrust procedures on 26 July against the leading French energy company, EDF, and the Belgian branch of Suez, Electrabel - saying that it suspected both energy providers of foreclosure of the Belgian and French electricity markets.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/eu-steps-pressure-france-liberalise-energy-market/article-165943?Ref=RSS>

**- EU braces for next round of 'difficult' energy talks, 1 August 2007**

The second half of 2007 promises renewed tensions as legislators prepare to hammer out the EU's future energy policy. Controversial Commission proposals on energy market liberalisation are due

in September, with renewables and CO2 burden-sharing proposals scheduled for the end of the year.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/eu-braces-round-difficult-energy-talks/article-165996>

- **EU concerned by energy dispute between Russia and Belarus, 2 August 2007**

Europe fears its gas supplies could be disrupted after the world's biggest gas producer - Russian state-owned Gazprom - said it will almost halve gas supplies to Belarus from Friday (3 August) after failing to reach a deal with Minsk over an outstanding \$333 million gas bill. Poland, Lithuania and parts of Germany and Ukraine are supplied via the pipeline that crosses Belarus. But Gazprom has said that it would maintain the remaining 55 percent of gas supplies through Belarus for transit supplies to Europe, according to press reports.

<http://www.data.minsk.by/belarusnews/082007/55.html>

- **German climate plan gets mixed reviews, 27 August 2007**

Pledging up to 36% less CO2 emissions by 2020 compared with 1990 levels, on 24 August the German government agreed an ambitious energy and climate plan. But critics say that it is too costly and will fail to meet its goals.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/climate-change/german-climate-plan-gets-mixed-reviews/article-166113>

- **EU may restrict foreign access to energy assets, 30 August 2007**

The Commission may seek to restrict third-country access to EU energy markets as part of its upcoming proposals on energy market liberalisation, according to the Financial Times. Press reports speculate the move is targeted in particular at Russia.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/eu-may-restrict-foreign-access-energy-assets/article-166303?Ref=RSS>

- **Foreign bidders likely to face restrictions in EU energy market, 30 August 2007**

Brussels is planning to prevent foreign companies from having "uncontrolled access" to the European energy sector in a bid to alleviate the fears of EU capitals opposing the separation of supply and distribution channels in energy companies, known as unbundling.

[http://euobserver.com/9/24660?rss\\_rk=1](http://euobserver.com/9/24660?rss_rk=1)

- **Energy efficiency: the EU's action plan, 31 August 2007**

Europe has embarked on an ambitious plan to cut its energy consumption by 20% by 2020 in a bid to reduce its dependency on imported oil and gas and slash its energy bill by an estimated 100 billion euro every year. If it delivers, the plan would also prevent 780 million tonnes of CO2 from being emitted in the atmosphere, or twice the amount the EU agreed to under the Kyoto Protocol.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/energy-efficiency/article-143199>

- **Russia: EU's protection of energy sector 'nearly hysterical', 31 August 2007**

Russia has reacted with anger at EU plans to prevent foreign companies from uncontrolled access to the European energy sector, warning that any discriminative measure will be legally challenged.

[http://euobserver.com/9/24670?rss\\_rk=1](http://euobserver.com/9/24670?rss_rk=1)

- **Interview: Renewables becoming EU's 'most dynamic' industries, 31 August 2007**

The naysayers have it wrong: Europe can easily achieve a 20% share for renewables in its energy mix, nuclear can be phased out and second-generation biofuels technologies will arrive in time to meet bioenergy targets sustainably, according to Oliver Schäfer, of the European Renewable Energy Council.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/interview-renewables-eu-dynamic-industries/article-166227>

- **MEPs want to keep Russia's European ambitions in line, 4 September**

Concerned about restrictions on EU energy companies operating in Russia, MEPs want tougher measures, and are calling on the Commission to make Russia's accession to the WTO conditional on EU investor access to the country's vast oil and gas resources.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/meps-want-keep-russia-european-ambitions-line/article-166434>

## **INTERESTING CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / EVENTS**

- **Training for Energy Efficiency - Know-how from & for Social Housing Organisations, to be held on 1 October 2007 in Brussels**

The workshop aims to analyse training needs and interests of social housing organisations and to present and discuss practical examples of training initiatives as well as best practice examples for energy-efficient retrofitting of social housing. The workshop is held in the framework of the 'EI-Education' project, supported by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme.

[http://pdfdownload.capt.de/pdf2html.php?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sustenergy.org%2FUserFiles%2FFile%2Ffederane\\_workshop\\_brussels.pdf&images=yes](http://pdfdownload.capt.de/pdf2html.php?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sustenergy.org%2FUserFiles%2FFile%2Ffederane_workshop_brussels.pdf&images=yes)

- **Biofuels Conference, 17-18 October 2007, Newark, Nottinghamshire**

Are you in the biofuels market or want to learn more about the issues surrounding biofuels? The Biofuels Conference is held alongside the Biodiesel-Expo, a free to attend event which will feature over 100 exhibits and more than 4,000 visitors.

Key subjects include : The Road Transport Fuel Objective, Sustainability, 2nd & 3rd Generation fuels, Food vs Fuel, Biofuel profitability, Meeting quality standards, Global market forecasts to 2020.

<http://www.biofuelsmedia.com/conference.php>

- **Biodiesel-Expo 17-18 October 2007, Newark, Nottinghamshire**

The Biodiesel-Expo 2007 will be the place to meet existing and new suppliers as well as network with both large and small scale producers. With over 100 trade stands, free Workshop sessions and visitor numbers expected to be over 4,000 this is the largest biofuels event in Europe this year! The Biofuels Conference in 2007 will run alongside the Biodiesel-Expo. With an impressive speaker line up this conference is targeted at those wishing to learn more about the following subjects:

- RTFO (Road transport fuel objective), the government will explain how it will work and be implemented from april 1st 2008.
- Home produced tax free legislation explained (2,500 L/year tax free)
- The fuel vs food debate
- 2nd generation biofuel feedstocks (jatropha and algae etc.)
- UK and global biofuel projections to 2020
- Creating quality fuels and winning customer confidence
- Biofuel production licensing explained, learn the pitfalls of getting your company licensed as a fuel producer and re-seller no matter what scale
- Create a profitable biofuel enterprise, industry experts on hand to explain how they got to where they are from small to larger scale producers.

<http://www.biodiesel-expo.co.uk/>

- **3rd Annual European Energy Policy Conference 2007, 21-22 November, Brussels**

This joint conference by the Brussels-based think tank the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) and Epsilon Events Ltd will take stock of existing EU approaches and policies, assess the potential of a number of technology options and ask whether the EU is on track to achieving its triple energy policy objectives. The event will also be a major networking opportunity for all concerned.

<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=455c0ca8-3464-4a45-9181-2c24fb62ff74>

- **ENERGAIA International Renewable Energy Exhibition 6-7 December 2007 Montpellier**

The International Exhibition of Renewable Energies Montpellier, is a meeting place and a professional fair where innovations, exchanges and solutions come together in a global approach to the renewable energies market on a local and international level. For more information please see the following page: <http://www.energaia-expo.com/uk/index.html>

For the latest newsletter of ENERGAIA please see: <http://www.energaia-expo.com/newsletter/n1UK/newsletterN1ssppdf.html>

## **PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH PROJECTS ON ENERGY**

- **Commission Decision of 17 July 2007 on establishing the European High Level Group on Nuclear Safety and Waste Management**

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/l\\_195/l\\_19520070727en00440046.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/l_195/l_19520070727en00440046.pdf)

- **Good governance of the petroleum sector, 24 July 2007**

The difficulties faced by developing countries in managing oil revenues efficiently and fairly, the requirements of economic liberalisation and pressure from evolving international standards have placed the governance of the petroleum sector in sharp focus, states this Chatham House report, published in April 2007.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/good-governance-petroleum-sector/article-165745>

- **Biofuels: Farm Aid, Not Foe, August 2007 Worldwatch Institute**

In its new publication 'Biofuels for Transport', the Worldwatch Institute examines how biofuels can reach their potential to strengthen energy security, promote economic development and protect the environment.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/environment/biofuels-farm-aid-foe/article-166255?Ref=RSS>

- **Reciprocity will not secure Europe's energy, August/September 2007 - CER BULLETIN, ISSUE 55**

As Moscow growls angrily at the West, Europeans are becoming more worried about their energy supplies. Will Russia be willing to sell us the gas we need to heat our houses and power our industries? Will it be able to? In 2006, Moscow temporarily turned off the tap to Ukraine. Could Poland be next? Or Italy?

[http://www.cer.org.uk/articles/55\\_barysch.html](http://www.cer.org.uk/articles/55_barysch.html)

- **Electricity consumption growing in spite of efficiency drive says EU report**

A report from the European Commission's in-house scientific service, the Joint Research Centre (JRC), indicates that overall electricity consumption is growing in the EU. Even if the EU and the Member States have adopted numerous successful measures to curb energy consumption and associated CO2 emissions, the electricity consumption in the residential sector of the EU-25 grew at a rate comparable to overall GDP (10.8 percent), effectively nullifying overall savings between 1999 and 2004. The report, Electricity Consumption and Efficiency Trends in the Enlarged European Union, highlights the key findings of an in-depth 2006 survey on electricity consumption in buildings in the enlarged EU, and the market share of energy-efficient appliances and equipment.

<http://www.europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1091&format=PDF&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>