

Press Release

CEER takes on heating regulation via a joint CEER-ERO workshop

16 October 2019

The Energy Regulatory Office (ERO) of the Czech Republic and the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER), in cooperation with the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, held a joint workshop on 16 October 2019, titled “**Heating Regulation – Experiences across Europe**“. The workshop focused on a range of heating-related regulatory issues, including investment assessment, and the future of heat networks in both national and European climate and energy plans. The workshop’s main objective was to share and exchange experience with regulation of the heating sector.

“District heating is a long-established technology in the Czech Republic and in a number of other European countries. Where it is not so, centralised heat production and distribution and combined heat and power is considered a promising option for meeting climate and energy goals,” said ERÚ Chairman Stanislav Trávníček in his opening remarks. *“While there are widely diverging regulatory approaches to heating across Europe, many regulators actually face similar challenges. That’s why I found the workshop highly topical,”* he added.

The workshop was attended by over 40 participants from 12 countries. There was a total of six presentations describing the various experiences in Lithuania, Denmark, Latvia, Hungary, Croatia, and the Netherlands. Workshop participants were also honoured to have a European Commission representative, who discussed the wider context of heating regulation, including the ‘energy efficiency first’ principle, the promotion of renewable district heating and cooling in the new Clean Energy Package and national climate and energy plans which should address heating as well. The presentations clearly showed that the heating sector is very diverse and there are important specificities to be taken into account compared to the regulation of electricity and gas.

CEER president Annegret Groebel highlighted, *“CEER is getting ready for an upcoming decarbonisation package from the European Commission and more near-term, the European Green Deal, which will also affect the role district heating can play in meeting our energy and climate goals. We made an important first step to pool the significant regulatory expertise CEER has among its members. We want to be a reliable and trusted partner for European Institutions and our stakeholders on heating regulation as well. This workshop is also an example of CEER is reaching out beyond Brussels for its activities.”*

Heating accounts for 50% of EU energy needs, of which 10% is covered by district heating. Several CEER Members are in charge of heating regulation. CEER believes that district heating and its regulation is an important element of the EU’s energy transition and European energy regulators fully appreciate that more coordinated action at EU level is needed.



Energy Regulatory Office

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